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Description

This invention relates to organic electroluminescent device. More specifically, this invention relates to devices which emit light from an organic layer positioned between anode and cathode electrodes when a voltage is applied across the electrodes.

While organic electroluminescent devices have been known for about two decades, their performance limitations have represented a barrier to many desirable applications.

Gurnee et al U.S. Patent 3,172,862, issued March 9, 1965, filed Sept. 29, 1960, disclosed an organic electroluminescent device (For brevity EL, the common acronym for electroluminescent, is sometimes substituted.) The EL device was formed of an emitting layer positioned in conductive contact with a transparent electrode and a metal electrode. The emitting layer was formed of a conjugated organic host material, a conjugated organic activating agent having condensed benzene rings, and a finely divided conductive material. Naphthalene, anthracene, phenanthrene, pyrene, benzopyrene, chrysene, picene, carbazole, fluorene, biphenyl, terphenyls, quaterphenyls, triphenylene oxide, dihalobiphenyl, trans-stilbene, and 1,4-diphenylbutadiene were offered as examples of organic host materials. Anthracene, tetracene, and pentacene were named as examples of activating agents, with anthracene being disclosed to impart a green hue and pentacene to impart a red hue. Chrome and brass were disclosed as examples of the metal electrode while the transparent electrode was disclosed to be a conductive glass. The emitting layer was disclosed to be "as thin as possible, about 0.0001 inch"- i.e., 2.54 micrometers. Electroluminescence was reported at 800 volts and 2000 hertz.

Recognizing the disadvantage of employing high voltages and frequencies Gurnee U.S. Patent 3,173,050 reported electroluminescence at 110 volts d.c. by employing in series with the emitting layer an impedance layer capable of accounting for 5 to 50 percent of the voltage drop across the electrodes.

Until relatively recently the art has reported at best modest performance improvements over Gurnee while resorting to increasingly challenging device constructions, such as those requiring alkali metal cathodes, inert atmospheres, relatively thick monocrystalline anthracene phosphor elements, and/or specialized device geometries. Mehl U.S. Patent 3,382,394, Mehl et al U.S. Patent 3,530,325, Roth U.S. Patent 3,359,445, Williams et al U.S. Patent 3,621,321, Williams U.S. Patent 3,772,556, Kawabe et al "Electroluminescence of Green Light Region in Doped Anthracene", Japan Journal of Applied Physics, Vol. 10, pp. 527-528, 1971, and Partridge U.S. Patent 3,995,299 are representative.

In 1969 Dresner, "Double Injection Electroluminescence in Anthracene", RCA Review, Vol. 30, pp. 322-334, independently corroborated the performance levels of then state of the art EL devices employing thick anthracene phosphor elements, alkali metal cathodes, and inert atmospheres to protect the alkali metal from spontaneous oxidation. These EL devices were more than 30 μm in thickness and required operating potentials of more than 300 volts. In attempting to reduce phosphor layer thickness and thereby achieve operation with potential levels below 50 volts Dresner attempted to coat anthracene powder between a conductive glass anode and a gold, platinum or tellurium grid cathode, but phosphor layer thicknesses of less than 10 μm could not be successfully achieved because of pinholes.

Dresner U.S. Patent 3,710,167 reported a more promising EL device employing like Gurnee et al and Gurnee a conjugated organic compound, but as the sole component of an emitting layer of less than 10 μm (preferably 1 to 5 μm) in thickness. A tunnel injection cathode consisting of aluminum or degenerate N⁺ silicon with a layer of the corresponding aluminum or silicon oxide of less than 0,001 μm (10 Angstroms) in thickness was employed.

The most recent discoveries in the art of organic EL device construction have resulted from EL device constructions with two extremely thin layers (<1.0 μm in combined thickness) separating the anode and cathode, one specifically chosen to transport holes and the other specifically chosen to transport electrons and acting as the organic luminescent zone of the device. This has allowed applied voltages to be reduced for the first time into ranges approaching compatibility with integrated circuit drivers, such as field effect transistors. At the same time light outputs at these low driving voltages have been sufficient to permit observation under common ambient lighting conditions.

For example, Tang U.S. Patent 4,356,429 discloses in Example 1 an EL device formed of a conductive glass transparent anode, a 0,1 μm (1000 Angstroms) hole transporting layer of copper phthalocyanine, a 0,1 μm (1000 Angstroms) electron transporting layer of tetraphenylbutadiene in poly(styrene) also acting as the luminescent zone of the device, and a silver cathode.

55 The EL device emitted blue light when biased at 20 volts at an average current density in the range 30 to 40 mA/cm². The brightness of the device was 5 cd/m².

Tang teaches useful cathodes to be those formed from common metals with a low work function, such as indium, silver, tin, and aluminum.

A further improvement in organic layer EL devices is taught by Van Slyke et al U.S. Patent 4,539,507. Referring to Example 1, onto a transparent conductive glass anode were vacuum vapor deposited successive 0.075 μm (750 Angstrom hole) transporting 1,1-bis(4-di-p-tolylaminophenyl)cyclohexane and electron transporting 4,4'-bis(5,7-di-t-pentyl-2-benzoxazolyl)stilbene layers, the latter also providing the 5 luminescent zone of the device. Indium was employed as the cathode. The EL device emitted blue = green light (520 nm peak). The maximum brightness achieved 340 cd/m² at a current density of about 140 mA/cm² when the applied voltage was 22 volts. The maximum power conversion efficiency was about 1.4 X 10⁻³ watt/watt, and the maximum EL quantum efficiency was about 1.2 X 10⁻² photon/electron when driven 10 at 20 volts. Silver, tin, lead, magnesium, manganese, and aluminum are specifically mentioned for cathode construction.

The discovery of techniques for fabricating organic EL devices with thin (<1 μm) luminescent zones has indicated the potential for more widespread use. Light output is directly related to current density which is in turn a function of the field gradient (volts/cm) between the electrodes. When thicker organic layers are employed, higher voltages must be employed to achieve a field gradient consistent with acceptable light 15 output levels- e.g., light emission sufficient to be readily detected in ambient room light. With organic EL devices having thin luminescent zones acceptable luminescence can be achieved at voltage levels conveniently provided by integrated circuits.

Although thin film organic EL devices have offered promise, there have remained significant barriers to their broader use. One significant concern has been that available organic materials for forming thin 20 luminescent zones have provided a limited choice of light emission wavelengths. For example, it can be readily appreciated that the formation of a full multicolour display requires at least a triad of individual organic EL devices, one device for emission in a different one of each of the blue, green, and red portions of the spectrum. Further, given the availability of a primary hue of emission, such as blue or green, the desirability of more precisely choosing the hue of emission arises.

In addition to the matter of the hue of light emission by the thin film organic EL devices, the stability of 25 the devices has remained a matter of concern. Most practical applications require limited voltage input or light output variance over an extended period of time. While the aromatic tertiary amine layers employed by Van Slyke et al U.S. Patent 4,539,507, cited above, have resulted in highly attractive initial light outputs in organic EL devices, the limited stability of thin film organic EL devices containing these layers has 30 remained a deterrent to widespread use. Device degradation results in obtaining progressively lower current densities when a constant voltage is applied. Lower current densities in turn result in lower levels of light output. With a constant applied voltage, practical EL device use terminates when light emission levels drop below acceptable levels. If the applied voltage is progressively increased to hold light emission levels constant, the field across the EL device is correspondingly increased. Eventually a voltage level is required 35 that cannot be conveniently supplied by the EL device driving circuitry or which produces a field gradient (volts/cm) exceeding the dielectric breakdown strength of the layers separating the electrodes, resulting in a catastrophic failure of the EL device.

It is an object of this invention to provide an electroluminescent device capable of producing light output 40 at lower levels of applied voltage and within a broader range of possible wavelengths and exhibiting high stability levels, comprising in sequence, an anode, an organic hole injecting and transporting zone, a luminescent zone, and a cathode. The EL device is characterized in that the luminescent zone is formed by a thin film of less than 1 μm in thickness comprised of an organic host material capable of sustaining hole and electron injection and a fluorescent material capable of emitting light in response to hole-electron recombination.

The presence of the fluorescent material permits a choice from among a wide latitude of wavelengths of 45 light emission. By selection of the materials forming the thin film organic EL devices of this invention, including particularly any one or combination of the fluorescent materials, the cathode metals, and the hole injecting and transporting materials, more stable device operation can be achieved than has been heretofore realized.

These and other advantages of the present invention can be better appreciated, by way of example, by reference to the following detailed description considered in conjunction with the drawings, in which

Figure 1, 2, and 3 are schematic diagrams of EL devices.

The drawings are necessarily of a schematic nature, since the thickness of the individual layers are too thin and thickness differences of the various device elements too great to permit depiction to scale or to 55 permit proportionate scaling.

An electroluminescent or EL device 100 according to the invention is schematically illustrated in Figure 1. Anode 102 is separated from cathode 104 by an organic luminescent medium 106. The anode and the cathode are connected to an external power source 108 by conductors 110 and 112, respectively. The

power source can be a continuous direct current or alternating current voltage source or an intermittent current voltage source. Any convenient conventional power source, including any desired switching circuitry, can be employed which is capable of positively biasing the anode with respect to the cathode. Either the anode or cathode can be at ground potential.

- 5 The EL device can be viewed as a diode which is forward biased when the anode is at a higher potential than the cathode. Under these conditions the anode injects holes (positive charge carriers), schematically shown at 114, into the luminescent medium while the cathode injects electrons, schematically shown at 116, into the luminescent medium. The portion of the luminescent medium adjacent the anode thus forms a hole transporting zone while the portion of the luminescent medium adjacent the cathode forms an electron transporting zone. The injected holes and electrons each migrate toward the oppositely charged electrode. This results in hole-electron recombination within the organic luminescent medium. When a migrating electron drops from its conduction potential to a valence band in filling a hole, energy is released as light. Hence the organic luminescent medium forms between the electrodes a luminescence zone receiving mobile charge carriers from each electrode. Depending upon the choice of alternative constructions, the released light can be emitted from the luminescent material through one or more of edges 118 separating the electrodes, through the anode through the cathode, or through any combination of the foregoing.

Reverse biasing of the electrodes reverses the direction of mobile charge migration, interrupts charge injection, and terminates light emission. The most common mode of operating organic EL devices is to employ a forward biasing d.c. power source and to rely on external current interruption or modulation to regulate light emission.

- 20 In the organic EL devices of the invention it is possible to maintain a current density compatible with efficient light emission while employing a relatively low voltage across the electrodes by limiting the total thickness of the organic luminescent medium to less than 1 μm (10,000 Angstroms). At a thickness of less than 1 μm an applied voltage of 20 volts results in a field potential of greater than 2×10^5 volts/cm, which is compatible with efficient light emission. As more specifically noted below, preferred thicknesses of the organic luminescent medium are in the range of from 0.1 to 0.5 μm (1,000 to 5,000 Angstroms), allowing further reductions in applied voltage and/or increase in the field potential, are well within device construction capabilities.

30 Since the organic luminescent medium is quite thin, it is usually preferred to emit light through one of the two electrodes. This is achieved by forming the electrode as a translucent or transparent coating, either on the organic luminescent medium or on a separate translucent or transparent support. The thickness of the coating is determined by balancing light transmission (or extinction) and electrical conductance (or resistance). A practical balance in forming a light transmissive metallic electrode is typically for the conductive coating to be in the thickness range of from about 0.005 to 0.025 μm (50 to 250 Angstroms). Where the electrode is not intended to transmit light, any greater thickness found convenient in fabrication can also be employed.

- 35 Organic EL device 200 shown in Figure 2 is illustrative of one preferred embodiment of the invention. Because of the historical development of organic EL devices it is customary to employ a transparent anode.
- 40 This has been achieved by providing a transparent insulative support 201 onto which is deposited a conductive relatively high work function metal or metal oxide transparent layer to form anode 203. Since the portion of the organic luminescent medium immediately adjacent the anode acts as a hole transporting zone, the organic luminescent medium is preferably formed by depositing on the anode a layer 205 of an organic material chosen for its hole transporting efficiency. In the orientation of the device 200 shown, the portion of the organic luminescent medium adjacent its upper surface constitutes an electron transporting zone and is formed of a layer 207 of an organic material chosen for its electron transporting efficiency. With preferred choices of materials, described below, forming the layers 205 and 207, the latter also forms the zone in which luminescence occurs. The cathode 209 is conveniently formed by deposition on the upper layer of the organic luminescent medium.

50 Organic EL device 300 shown in Figure 3 is illustrative of another preferred embodiment of the invention. Contrary to the historical pattern of organic EL device development, light emission from the device 300 is through the light transmissive (e.g., transparent or substantially transparent) cathode 309. While the anode of the device 300 can be formed identically as the device 200, thereby permitting light emission through both anode and cathode, in the preferred form shown the device 300 employs an opaque charge conducting element to form the anode 301, such as a relatively high work function metallic substrate. The hole and electron transporting layers 305 and 307 can be identical to the corresponding layers 205 and 207 of the device 200 and require no further description. The significant difference between devices 200 and 300 is that the latter employs a thin, light transmissive (e.g., transparent or substantially

transparent) cathode in place of the opaque cathode customarily included in organic EL devices.

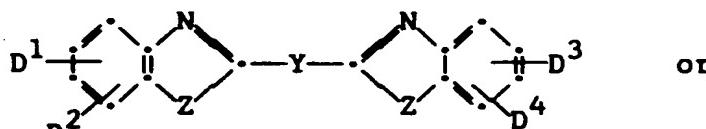
Viewing organic EL devices 200 and 300 together, it is apparent that the present invention offers the option of mounting the devices on either a positive or negative polarity opaque substrate. While the organic luminescent medium of the EL devices 200 and 300 are described above as being comprised of a single organic hole injecting and transporting layer and a single electron injecting and transporting layer, further elaboration of each of these layers into multiple layers, as more specifically described below, can result in further enhancement of device performance. When multiple electron injecting and transporting layers are present, the layer receiving holes is the layer in which hole-electron recombination occurs and therefore forms the luminescent zone of the device.

In the practice of the present invention the luminescent zone is in every instance formed by a thin film (herein employed to mean less than 1 μm in thickness) comprised of an organic host material capable of sustaining hole and electron injection and a fluorescent material capable of emitting light in response to hole-electron recombination. It is preferred that the luminescent zone be maintained in a thickness range of from 0,005 to 0,5 μm (50 to 5000 Angstroms) and, optimally, 100 to 1000 Angstroms, so that the entire organic luminescent medium can be less than 1 μm and preferably less than 1000 Angstroms in thickness.

The host material can be conveniently formed of any material heretofore employed as the active component of a thin film luminescent zone of an organic EL device. Among host materials suitable for use in forming thin films are diarylbutadienes and stilbenes, such as those disclosed by Tang U.S. Patent 4,356,429, cited above.

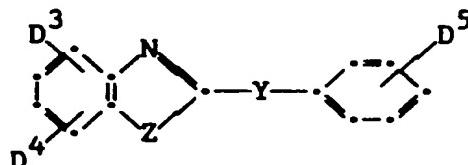
Still other thin film forming host materials which can be employed are optical brighteners, particularly those disclosed by Van Slyke et al U.S. Patent 4,539,507, cited above. Useful optical brighteners include those satisfying structural formulae (I) and (II):

25 (I)



30

(II)



wherein

40 D^1 , D^2 , D^3 , and D^4 are individually hydrogen; saturated aliphatic of from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, for example, propyl, t-butyl, heptyl, and the like; aryl of from 6 to 10 carbon atoms, for example, phenyl and naphthyl; or halo such as chloro, fluoro, and the like; or D^1 and D^2 or D^3 and D^4 taken together comprise the atoms necessary to complete a fused aromatic ring optionally bearing at least one saturated aliphatic of from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl and the like;

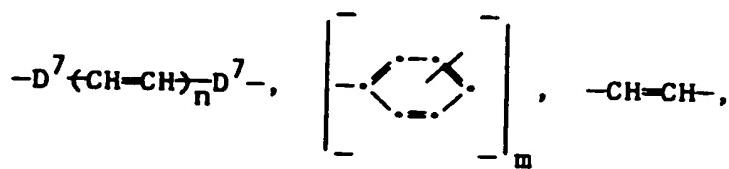
45 D^5 is a saturated aliphatic of from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, such as methyl, ethyl, n-eicosyl, and the like; aryl of from 6 to 10 carbon atoms, for example, phenyl and naphthyl; carboxyl; hydrogen; cyano; or halo, for example, chloro, fluoro and the like; provided that in formula (II) at least two of D^3 , D^4 and D^5 are saturated aliphatic of from 3 to 10 carbon atoms, e.g., propyl, butyl, heptyl and the like;

Z is $-O-$, $-N(D^6)-$, or $-S-$; and

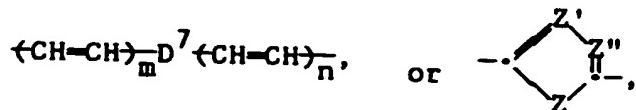
50 Y is

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5



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wherein

- 15 m is an integer of from 0 to 4;
 n is arylene of from 6 to 10 carbon atoms, for example, phenylene and naphthylene; and
 D^6 is hydrogen; a saturated aliphatic substituent of from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, such as an alkyl substituent; aryl of from 6 to 10 carbon atoms, such as phenyl or naphthyl; or a halo substituent, such as chloro or fluoro;

- 20 D^7 is arylene of from 6 to 10 carbon atoms, such as phenyl or naphthyl;
 Z' and Z'' are individually N or CH.

- As used herein "aliphatic" includes substituted aliphatic as well as unsubstituted aliphatic. The substituents in the case of substituted aliphatic include alkyl of from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, for example, methyl, ethyl, propyl and the like; aryl of from 6 to 10 carbon atoms, for example, phenyl and naphthyl; halo, such as 25 chloro, fluoro and the like; nitro; and alkoxy having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, for example, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, and the like.

- Still other optical brighteners that are contemplated to be useful are listed in Vol. 5 of Chemistry of Synthetic Dyes, 1971, pages 618-637 and 640. Those that are not already thin-film-forming can be rendered so by attaching an aliphatic moiety to one or both end rings.

- 30 Particularly preferred host materials for forming the luminescent zone of the organic EL devices of this inventions are metal chelated oxinoid compounds, including chelates of oxine (also commonly referred to as 8-quinolinol or 8-hydroxyquinoline). Such compounds exhibit both high levels of performance and are readily fabricated in the form of thin films. Exemplary of contemplated oxinoid compounds are those satisfying structural formula (III):

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(III)

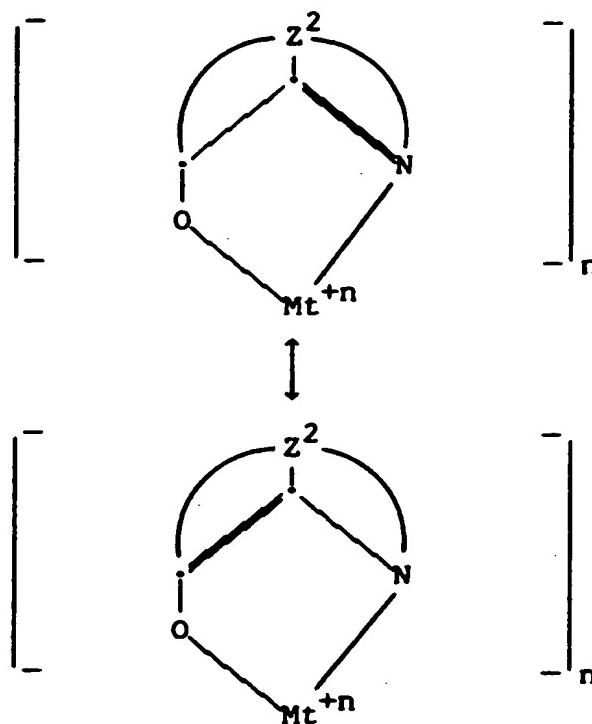
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wherein

30 Mt represents a metal;

n is an integer of from 1 to 3; and

Z² independently in each occurrence represents the atoms completing a nucleus having at least two fused aromatic rings.

35 From the foregoing it is apparent that the metal can be monovalent, divalent, or trivalent metal. The metal can, for example, be an alkali metal, such as lithium, sodium, or potassium; an alkaline earth metal, such as magnesium or calcium; or an earth metal, such as boron or aluminum. Generally any monovalent, divalent, or trivalent metal known to be a useful chelating metal can be employed.

40 Z² completes a heterocyclic nucleus containing at least two fused aromatic rings, at one of which is an azole or azine ring. Additional rings, including both aliphatic and aromatic rings, can be fused with the two required rings, if required. To avoid adding molecular bulk without improving on function the number of ring atoms is preferably maintained at 18 or less.

In the following description, the abbreviation "a.k.a." means "also known as".

Illustrative of useful host materials capable of being used to form thin films are the following:

- | | |
|----|--|
| 45 | HM-1 Aluminum trisoxine
[a.k.a., tris-(8-quinolinol) aluminum] |
| | HM-2 Magnesium bisoxine
[a.k.a., bis(8-quinolinol) magnesium] |
| | HM-3 Bis[benzo{f}-8-quinolinol] zinc |
| | HM-4 Bis(2-methyl-8-quinolinolato) aluminum oxide |
| 50 | HM-5 Indium trisoxine
[a.k.a., tris(8-quinolinol) indium] |
| | HM-6 Aluminum tris(5-methyloxine)
[a.k.a., tris(5-methyl-8-quinolinol) aluminum] |
| | HM-7 Lithium oxine
[a.k.a., 8-quinolinol lithium] |
| 55 | HM-8 Gallium trisoxine
[a.k.a., tris(5-chloro-8-quinolinol) gallium] |
| | HM-9 Calcium bis(5-chlorooxine) |

		[a.k.a., bis(5-chloro-8-quinolinol) calcium]
	HM-10	Poly[zinc (II)-bis(8-hydroxy-5-quinolinyl)-methane]
	HM-11	Dilithium epindolidione
	HM-12	1,4-Diphenylbutadiene
5	HM-13	1,1,4,4-Tetraphenylbutadiene
	HM-14	4,4'-Bis[5,7-di(t-pentyl-2-benzoxazolyl)]stilbene
	HM-15	2,5-Bis[5,7-di(t-pentyl-2-benzoxazolyl)]thio-phene
	HM-16	2,2'-(1,4-phenylenedivinylene)bisbenzothiazole
	HM-17	4,4'-(2,2'-Bisthiazolyl)biphenyl
10	HM-18	2,5-Bis[5-(α,α -dimethylbenzyl)-2-benzoxazolyl]thiophene
	HM-19	2,5-Bis[5,7-di(t-pentyl)-2-benzoxazolyl]-3,4-diphenylthiophene
	HM-20	Trans-stilbene

All of the host materials listed above are known to emit light in response to hole and electron injection. By blending with the host material a minor amount of a fluorescence material capable of emitting light in response to hole-electron recombination the hue of light emitted from the luminescent zone can be modified. In theory, if a host material and a fluorescent material could be found for blending which have exactly the same affinity for hole-electron recombination each material should emit light upon injection of holes and electrons in the luminescent zone. The perceived hue of light emission would be the visual integration of both emissions.

Since imposing such a balance of host and fluorescent materials is highly limiting, it is preferred to choose the fluorescent material so that it provides the favored sites for light emission. When only a small proportion of fluorescent material providing favored sites for light emission is present, peak intensity wavelength emissions typical of the host material can be entirely eliminated in favor of a new peak intensity wavelength emission attributable to the fluorescent material. While the minimum proportion of fluorescent material sufficient to achieve this effect varies by the specific choice of host and fluorescent materials, in no instance is it necessary to employ more than about 10 mole percent fluorescent material, based on moles of host material and seldom is it necessary to employ more than 1 mole percent of the fluorescent material. On the other hand, for any host material capable of emitting light in the absence of fluorescent material, limiting the fluorescent material present to extremely small amounts, typically less than about 10^{-3} mole percent, based on host material, can result in retaining emission at wavelengths characteristic of the host material. Thus, by choosing the proportion of a fluorescent material capable of providing favored sites for light emission, either a full or partial shifting of emission wavelengths can be realized. This allows the spectral emissions of the EL devices of this invention to be selected and balanced to suit the application to be served.

Choosing fluorescent materials capable of providing favored sites for light emission necessarily involves relating the properties of the fluorescent material to those of the host material. The host material can be viewed as a collector for injected holes and electrons with the fluorescent material providing the molecular sites for light emission. One important relationship for choosing a fluorescent material capable of modifying the hue of light emission when present in a host material is a comparison of the reduction potentials of the two materials. The fluorescent materials demonstrated to shift the wavelength of light emission have exhibited a less negative reduction potential than that of the host material. Reduction potentials, measured in electron volts, have been widely reported in the literature along with varied techniques for their measurement. Since it is a comparison of reduction potentials rather than their absolute values which is desired, it is apparent that any accepted technique for reduction potential measurement can be employed, providing both the fluorescent and host material reduction potentials are similarly measured. A preferred oxidation and reduction potential measurement technique is reported by R. J. Cox, Photographic Sensitivity, Academic Press, 1973, Chapter 15.

A second important relationship for choosing a fluorescent material capable of modifying the hue of light emission when present in a host material is a comparison of the bandgap potentials of the two materials. The fluorescent materials demonstrated to shift the wavelength of light emission have exhibited a lower bandgap potential than that of the host material. The bandgap potential of a molecule is taken as the potential difference in electron volts (eV) separating its ground state and first singlet state. Bandgap potentials and techniques for their measurement have been widely reported in the literature. The bandgap potentials herein reported are those measured in electron volts (eV) at an absorption wavelength which is bathochromic to the absorption peak and of a magnitude one tenth that of the magnitude of the absorption peak. Since it is a comparison of bandgap potentials rather than their absolute values which is desired, it is apparent that any accepted technique for bandgap measurement can be employed, providing both the fluorescent and host material band gaps are similarly measured. One illustrative measurement technique is

disclosed by F. Gutman and L. E. Lyons, Organic Semiconductors, Wiley, 1967, Chapter 5.

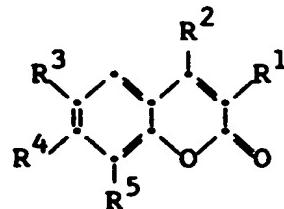
Where a host material is chosen which is itself capable of emitting light in the absence of the fluorescent material, it has been observed that suppression of light emission at the wavelengths of emission characteristic of the host material alone and enhancement of emission at wavelengths characteristic of the fluorescent material occurs when spectral coupling of the host and fluorescent materials is achieved. By spectral coupling it is meant that an overlap exists between the wavelengths of emission characteristic of the host material alone and the wavelengths of light absorption of the fluorescent material in the absence of the host material. Optimal spectral coupling occurs when the maximum emission of the host material alone substantially matches within ± 25 nm the maximum absorption of the fluorescent material alone. In practice advantageous spectral coupling can occur with peak emission and absorption wavelengths differing by up to 100 nm or more, depending on the width of the peaks and their hypsochromic and bathochromic slopes. Where less than optimum spectral coupling between the host and fluorescent materials is contemplated, a bathochromic as compared to a hypsochromic displacement of the fluorescent material produces more efficient results.

Although the foregoing discussion has been undertaken by reference to host materials which are known to themselves emit light in response to hole and electron injection, in fact light emission by the host material itself can entirely cease where light emission by the fluorescent material is favored by any one or combination of the various relationships noted above. It is appreciated that shifting the role of light emission to the fluorescent material allows a still broader range of choices of host materials. For example, one fundamental requirement of a material chosen to emit light is that it must exhibit a low extinction coefficient for light of the wavelength it emits to avoid internal absorption. The present invention permits use of host materials which are capable of sustaining the injection of holes and electrons, but are themselves incapable of efficiently emitting light.

Useful fluorescent materials are those capable of being blended with the host material and fabricated into thin films satisfying the thickness ranges described above forming the luminescent zones of the EL devices of this invention. While crystalline host materials do not lend themselves to thin film formation, the limited amounts of fluorescent materials present in the host materials permits the use of fluorescent materials which are along incapable of thin film formation. Preferred fluorescent materials are those which form a common phase with the host material. Fluorescent dyes constitute a preferred class of fluorescent materials, since dyes lend themselves to molecular level distribution in the host material. Although any convenient technique for dispersing the fluorescent dyes in the host materials can be undertaken, preferred fluorescent dyes are those which can be vacuum vapor deposited along with the host materials. Assuming other criteria, noted above, are satisfied, fluorescent laser dyes are recognized to be particularly useful fluorescent materials for use in the organic EL devices of this invention.

One preferred class of fluorescent dyes are fluorescent coumarin dyes. Among specifically preferred fluorescent coumarin dyes are those satisfying formula IV:

(IV)



40

45

where

R¹ is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, carboxy, alkanoyl, alkoxy carbonyl, cyano, aryl, and a heterocyclic aromatic group,

R² is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, carboxy, alkanoyl, and alkoxy carbonyl,

R³ is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl,

R⁴ is an amino group, and

R⁵ is hydrogen, or

R¹ and R² together form a fused carbocyclic ring, and/or

the amino group forming R⁴ completes with at least one of R³ and R⁵ a fused ring.

The alkyl moieties in each instance contain from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, preferably 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

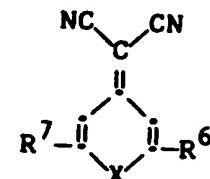
The aryl moieties are preferably phenyl groups. The fused carbocyclic rings are preferably five, six, or seven membered rings. The heterocyclic aromatic groups contain 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic rings containing carbon atoms and one or two hetero atoms chosen from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen. The amino group can be a primary, secondary, or tertiary amino group. When the amino 5 nitrogen completes a fused ring with an adjacent substituent, the ring is preferably a five or six membered ring. For example, R⁴ can take the form of a pyran ring when the nitrogen atom forms a single ring with one adjacent substituent (R³ or R⁵) or a julolidine ring (including the fused benzo ring of the coumarin) when the nitrogen atom forms rings with both adjacent substituents R³ and R⁵.

The following are illustrative fluorescent coumarin dyes known to be useful as laser dyes:

- 10 FD-1 7-Diethylamino-4-methylcoumarin
- FD-2 4,6-Dimethyl-7-ethylaminocoumarin
- FD-3 4-Methylumbelliferone
- FD-4 3-(2'-Benzothiazolyl)-7-diethylaminocoumarin
- FD-5 3-(2'-Benzimidazolyl)-7-N,N-diethylaminocoumarin
- 15 FD-6 7-Amino-3-phenylcoumarin
- FD-7 3-(2'-N-Methylbenzimidazolyl)-7-N,N-diethylaminocoumarin
- FD-8 7-Diethylamino-4-trifluoromethylcoumarin
- FD-9 2,3,5,6-1H,4H-Tetrahydro-8-methylquinolazino[9,9a,1-gh]coumarin
- FD-10 Cyclopenta[c]julolidino[9,10-3]-11H-pyran-11-one
- 20 FD-11 7-Amino-4-methylcoumarin
- FD-12 7-Dimethylaminocyclopenta[c]coumarin
- FD-13 7-Amino-4-trifluoromethylcoumarin
- FD-14 7-Dimethylamino-4-trifluoromethylcoumarin
- FD-15 1,2,4,5,3H,6H,10H-Tetrahydro-8-trifluoromethyl[1]benzopyrano[9,9a,1-gh]quinolizin-10-one
- 25 FD-16 4-Methyl-7-(sulfomethylamino)coumarin sodium salt
- FD-17 7-Ethylamino-6-methyl-4-trifluoromethylcoumarin
- FD-18 7-Dimethylamino-4-methylcoumarin
- FD-19 1,2,4,5,3H,6H,10H-Tetrahydro-carbethoxy[1]-benzopyrano[9,9a,1-gh]quinolizino-10-one
- FD-20 9-Acetyl-1,2,4,5,3H,6H,10H-tetrahydro[1]benzopyrano[9,9a,1-gh]quinolizino-10-one
- 30 FD-21 9-Cyano-1,2,4,5,3H,6H,10H-tetrahydro[1]benzopyrano[9,9a,1-gh]quinolizino-10-one
- FD-22 9-(t-Butoxycarbonyl)-1,2,4,5,3H,6H,10H-tetrahyro[1]benzopyrano[9,9a,1-gh]quinolizino-10-one
- FD-23 4-Methylpiperidino[3,2-g]coumarin
- FD-24 4-Trifluoromethylpiperidino[3,2-g]coumarin
- 35 FD-25 9-Carboxy-1,2,4,5,3H,6H,10H-tetrahydro[1]-benzopyrano[9,9a,1-gh]quinolizino-10-one
- FD-26 N-Ethyl-4-trifluoromethylpiperidino[3,2-g]-coumarin

Another preferred class of fluorescent dyes are fluorescent 4-dicyanomethylene-4H-pyrans and 4-dicyanomethylene-4H-thiopyrans, hereinafter referred to as fluorescent dicyanomethylenepyran and thiopyran dyes. Preferred fluorescent dyes of this class are those satisfying formula (V):

(V)



wherein

- 50 X represents oxygen or sulfur;
- R⁶ represents a 2-(4-aminostyryl) group; and
- R⁷ represents a second R⁶ group, an alkyl group, or an aryl group.

Although X most conveniently represents oxygen or sulfur, it is appreciated that higher atomic number chalcogens should provide similar, though bathochromically shifted, response. The amino group can be a 55 primary, secondary, or tertiary amino group. In one specifically preferred form the amino group can form at least one addition fused ring with the styryl phenyl ring. For example, the styryl phenyl ring and the amino group can together form a julolidine ring or the amino group can form an five or six membered ring fused with the styryl phenyl ring. The alkyl group forming R⁷ typically contains from 1 to 5 carbon atoms,

preferably 1 to 3 carbon atoms. The aryl group forming R⁷ is preferably phenyl. When both R⁶ and R⁷ form a 2-(4-aminostyryl) group, the groups can be the same or different, but symmetrical compounds are more conveniently synthesized.

The following are illustrative fluorescent dicyanomethyleneepyran and thiopyran dyes:

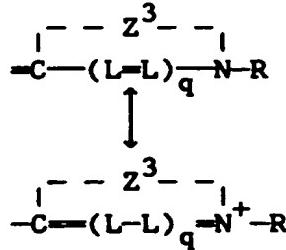
- 5 FD-27 4-(Dicyanomethylene)-2-methyl-6-(p-dimethylaminostyryl)-4H-pyran
- FD-28 4-(Dicyanomethylene)-2-methyl-6-[2-(9-julolidyl)ethenyl]-4H-pyran
- FD-29 4-(Dicyanomethylene)-2-phenyl-6-[2-(9-julolidyl)ethenyl]4H-pyran
- FD-30 4-(Dicyanomethylene)-2,6-[2-(9-julolidyl)-ethenyl]-4H-pyran
- FD-31 4-(Dicyanomethylene)-2-methyl-6-[2-(9-julolidyl)ethenyl]-4H-thiopyran

10 Useful fluorescent dyes can also be selected from among known polymethine dyes, which include the cyanines, merocyanines, complex cyanines and merocyanines (i.e., tri-, tetra- and poly-nuclear cyanines and merocyanines), oxonols, hemioxonols, styryls, merostyryls, and streptocyanines.

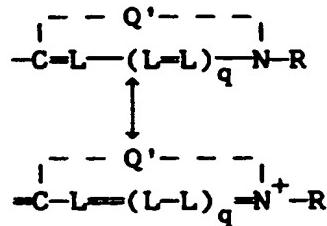
15 The cyanine dyes include, joined by a methine linkage, two basic heterocyclic nuclei, such as azonium or azinium nuclei, for example, those derived from pyridinium, quolinium, isoquinolinium, oxazolium, thiazolium, selenazolium, indazolium, pyrazolium, pyrrolium, indolium, 3H-indolium, imidazolium, oxadiazolium, thiadiazolium, benzoxazolium, benzothiazolium, benzoselenazolium, benzotellurazolium, benzimidazolium, 3H- or 1H-benzoindolium, naphthoxazolium, naphthothiazolium, naphthoselenazolium, naphthotellurazolium, carbazolium, pyrrolopyridinium, phenanthrothiazolium, and acenaphthothiazolium quaternary salts.

20 Exemplary of the basic heterocyclic nuclei are those satisfying Formulae VI and VII.

(VI)



(VII)



where

Z³ represents the elements needed to complete a cyclic nucleus derived from basic heterocyclic nitrogen compounds such as oxazoline, oxazole, benzoxazole, the naphthoxazoles (e.g., naphth[2,1-d]oxazole, naphth[2,3-d]oxazole, and naphth[1,2-d]oxazole), oxadiazole, thiazoline, thiazole, benzothiazole, the naphthothiazoles (e.g., naphtho[2,1-d]thiazole), the thiazoloquinolines (e.g., thiazolo[4,5-b]quinoline), phenanthrothiazole, acenaphthothiazole, thiadiazole, selenazoline, selenazole, benzoselenazole, the naphthoselenazoles (e.g., naphtho[1,2-d]-selenazole), benzotellurazole, naphthotellurazoles (e.g., naptho[1,2-d]tellurazole), imidazoline, imidazole, benzimidazole, the naphthimidazoles (e.g., naphth[2,3-d]imidazole), 2- or 4-pyridine, 2- or 4-quinoline, 1- or 3-isoquinoline, benzoquinoline, 3H-indole, 1H- or 3H-benzoindole, and pyrazole, which nuclei may be substituted on the ring by one or more of a wide variety of substituents such as hydroxy, the halogens (e.g., fluoro, chloro, bromo, and iodo), alkyl groups or substituted alkyl groups (e.g., methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, octyl, dodecyl, octadecyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 3-sulfopropyl, carboxymethyl, 2-cyanoethyl, and trifluoromethyl), aryl groups or substituted aryl groups (e.g., phenyl, 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 4-sulfophenyl, 3-carboxyphenyl, and 4-biphenyl), aralkyl groups (e.g., benzyl and phenethyl), alkoxy groups (e.g., methoxy, ethoxy, and isopropoxy), aryloxy groups (e.g., phenoxy and 1-naphthoxy), alkylthio groups (e.g., methylthio and ethylthio), arylthio groups (e.g., phenylthio, p-tolythio, and

2-naphthylthio), methylenedioxy, cyano, 2-thienyl, styryl, amino or substituted amino groups (e.g., anilino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, and morpholino), acyl groups, (e.g., formyl, acetyl, benzoyl, and benzenesulfonyl);

5 Q' represents the elements needed to complete a cyclic nucleus derived from basic heterocyclic nitrogen compounds such as pyrrole, indole, carbazole, benzindole, pyrazole, indazole, and pyrrolopyridine;

R represents alkyl groups, aryl groups, alkenyl groups, or aralkyl groups, with or without substituents, (e.g., carboxy, hydroxy, sulfo, alkoxy, sulfato, thiosulfato, phosphono, chloro, and bromo substituents);

L is in each occurrence independently selected to represent a substituted or unsubstituted methine group-e.g., -CR⁸ = groups, where R⁸ represents hydrogen when the methine group is unsubstituted and most commonly represents alkyl of from 1 to 4 carbon atoms or phenyl when the methine group is substituted; and

10 q is 0 or 1.

Cyanine dyes can contain two heterocyclic nuclei of the type shown in Formula VI joined by a methine linkage containing an uneven number of methine groups or can contain a heterocyclic nucleus according to each of Formulae VI and VII joined by a methine linkage containing an even number of methine groups, where the methine groups can take the form -CR⁸ = as described above. The greater the number of the methine groups linking nuclei in the polymethine dyes in general and the cyanine dyes in particular the longer the absorption wavelengths of the dyes. For example, dicarbocyanine dyes (cyanine dyes containing five methine groups linking two basic heterocyclic nuclei) exhibit longer absorption wavelengths than carbocyanine dyes (cyanine dyes containing three methine groups linking two basic heterocyclic nuclei) which in turn exhibit longer absorption wavelengths than simple cyanine dyes (cyanine dyes containing a single methine group linking two basic heterocyclic nuclei). Carbocyanine and dicarbocyanine dyes are longer wavelength dyes while simple cyanine dyes are typically yellow dyes, but can exhibit absorption maxima up to about 550 nm in wavelength with proper choice of nuclei and other components capable of bathochromically shifting absorption.

25 Preferred polymethine dyes, particularly cyanine dyes, for use as fluorescent dyes are so-called rigidized dyes. These dyes are constructed to restrict the movement of one nucleus in relation to another. This avoids radiationless, kinetic dissipation of the excited state energy. One approach to rigidizing the dye structure is to incorporate a separate bridging group providing a separate linkage in addition to the methine 30 chain linkage joining the terminal nuclei of the dye. Bridged polymethine dyes are illustrated by Brooker et al U.S. Patent 2,478,367, Brooker U.S. Patent 2,479,152, Gilbert U.S. Patent 4,490,463, and Tredwell et al, "Picosecond Time Resolved Fluorescence Lifetimes of the Polymethine and Related Dyes", Chemical Physics, Vol. 43 (1979) pp. 307-316.

35 The methine chain joining polymethine dye nuclei can be rigidized by including the methine chain as part of a cyclic nucleus joining the terminal basic nuclei of the dye. One of the techniques for both rigidizing and bathochromically shifting the absorption maxima of polymethine dyes in general and cyanine dyes in particular is to include in the methine linkage an oxocarbon bridging nucleus. Exemplary oxocarbon bridging nuclei can take any of the forms indicated by Formula VIII.

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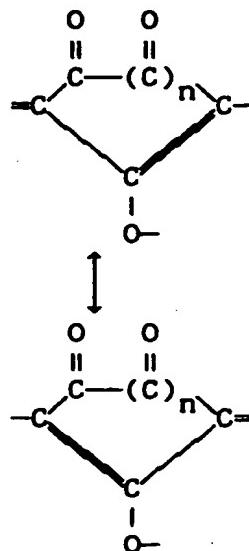
(VIII)

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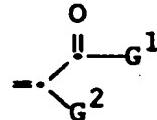
wherein n is the integer 0, 1, or 2.

Merocyanine dyes link one of the cyanine dye type basic heterocyclic nuclei described above to an acidic keto methylene nucleus through a methine linkage as described above, but containing zero, two, or a higher even number of methine groups. Zero methine dyes, those containing no methine groups in the linkage between nuclei, exhibit a double bond linkage between the nuclei in one resonance form and a single bound linkage in another resonance form. In either resonance form the linkage sites in the nuclei are formed by methine groups forming a part of each nucleus. Zero methine polymethine dyes are yellow dyes.

Exemplary acidic nuclei are those which satisfy Formula IX.

(IX)

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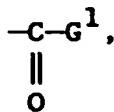
where

G¹ represents an alkyl group or substituted alkyl group, an aryl or substituted aryl group, an aralkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a hydroxy group, an amino group, or a substituted amino group, wherein exemplary substituents can take the various forms noted in connection with Formulae VI and VII;

G² can represent any one of the groups listed for G¹ and in addition can represent a cyano group, an alkyl, or arylsulfonyl group, or a group represented by

45

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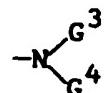
or G² taken together with G¹ can represent the elements needed to complete a cyclic acidic nucleus such as those derived from 2,4-oxazolidinone (e.g., 3-ethyl-2,4-oxazolidindione), 2,4-thiazolidindione (e.g., 3-methyl-2,4-thiazolidindione), 2-thio-2,4-oxazolidindione (e.g., 3-phenyl-2-thio-2,4-oxazolidindione), rhodanine, such as 3-ethylrhodanine, 3-phenylrhodanine, 3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)rhodanine, and 3-carboxymethylrhodanine, hydantoin (e.g., 1,3-diethylhydantoin and 3-ethyl-1-phenylhydantoin), 2-thiodhydantoin (e.g., 1-ethyl-3-phenyl-2-thiohydantoin, 3-heptyl-1-phenyl-2-thiohydantoin, and arylsulfonyl-2-thiohydantoin), 2-pyrazolin-5-one, such as 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-pyrazolin-5-one, 3-methyl-1-(4-carboxybutyl)-2-pyrazolin-5-

one, and 3-methyl-2-(4-sulfonphenyl)-2-pyrazolin-5-one, 2-isoxazolin-5-one (e.g., 3-phenyl-2-isoxazolin-5-one), 3,5-pyrazolidindione (e.g., 1,2-diethyl-3,5-pyrazolidindione and 1,2-diphenyl-3,5-pyrazolidindione), 1,3-indandione, 1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione, 1,3-cyclohexanedione, barbituric acid (e.g., 1-ethylbarbituric acid and 1,3-diethylbarbituric acid), and 2-thiobarbituric acid (e.g., 1,3-diethyl-2-thiobarbituric acid and 1,3-bis(2-methoxyethyl)-2-thiobarbituric acid).

Useful hemicyanine dyes are essentially similar to the merocyanine dyes described above, differing only in substituting for the keto methylene group of Formula IX the group shown below in Formula X.

10

(X)



15 where

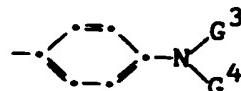
G^3 and G^4 may be the same or different and may represent alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, or aralkyl, as illustrated for ring substituents in Formula VI or G^3 and G^4 taken together complete a ring system derived from a cyclic secondary amine, such as pyrrolidine, 3-pyrrolidine, piperidine, piperazine (e.g., 4-methylpiperazine and 4-phenylpiperazine), morpholine, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline, decahydroquinoline, 3-azabicyclo[3.2.2]-nonane, indoline, azetidine, and hexahydroazepine.

Useful hemioxonol dyes exhibit a keto methylene nucleus as shown in Formula IX and a nucleus as shown in Formula X joined by a methine linkage as previously described containing one or a higher uneven number of methine groups.

Useful merostyryl dyes exhibit a keto methylene nucleus as shown in Formula IX and a nucleus as shown in Formula XI joined by a methine linkage as described above containing one or a higher uneven number of methine groups.

30

(XI)



where

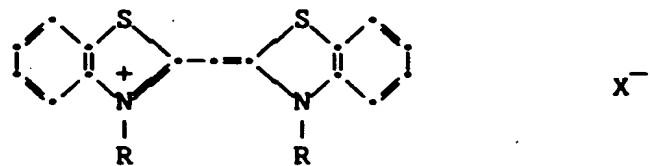
35 G^3 and G^4 are as previously defined.

The longer wavelength cyanine, merocyanine, hemicyanine, hemioxonol, and merostyryl dyes described above are intended to be illustrative of the simpler structural forms of useful longer wavelength polymethine dyes. It is generally recognized that substituents can join the nuclei and methine linkages to form additional cyclic structures. Further, the dyes can contain three or more nuclei. For example, by substituting a 40 merocyanine dye in methine linkage with a second basic heterocyclic nucleus of the cyanine dye type an allopolar cyanine dye can be formed. Further, the various substituents not forming a part of the dye chromophore can be varied as desired to tailor dye physical properties, particularly hydrophobicity and hydrophilicity, to suit the particular film forming components employed. By choosing as the aliphatic moieties of the dyes hydrocarbon groups having more carbon atoms (e.g., from about 6 to 20 carbon atoms) the dyes can be rendered more oleophilic while hydrocarbon groups containing fewer numbers of carbon atoms (e.g., 1 to 5 carbon atoms) and particularly those bearing polar substituents render the dyes 45 more hydrophilic. The aromatic moieties of the dyes typically contain from 6 to 10 carbon atoms.

The following are illustrative of polymethine dyes capable of maximum light absorption at shorter (<550 nm) wavelengths:

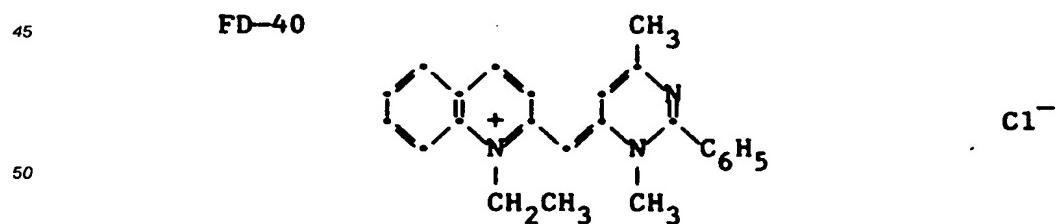
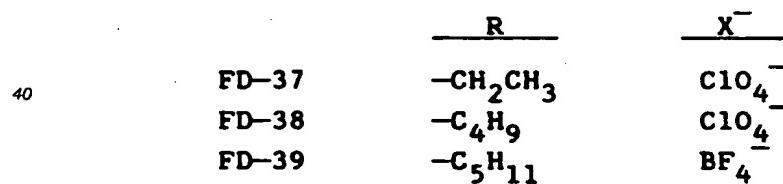
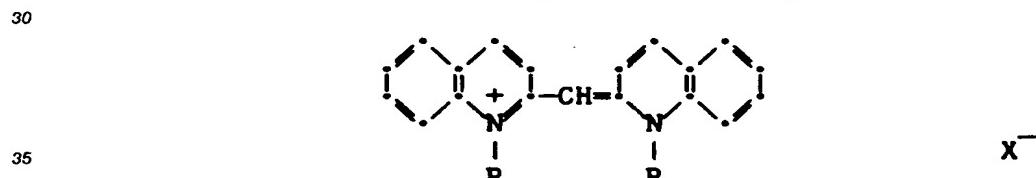
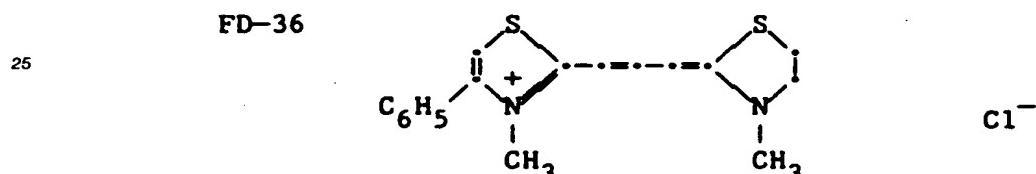
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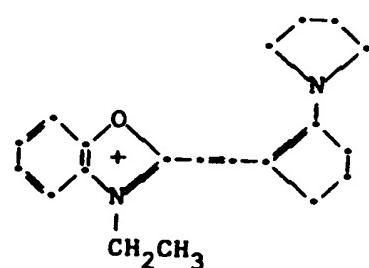
	<u>R</u>	<u>X⁻</u>
10	FD-32 -C ₁₆ H ₃₃	C ₁ ⁻
	FD-33 -C ₁₈ H ₃₇	PTS ⁻
15	FD-34 -CH ₂ CH=CH ₂	C ₁ ⁻

PTS = p-toluene sulfonate



FD-41

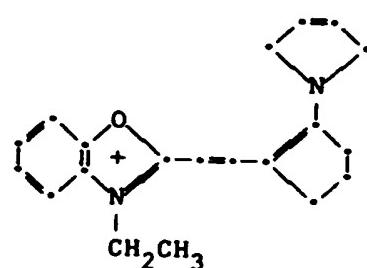
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 ClO_4^-

10

FD-42

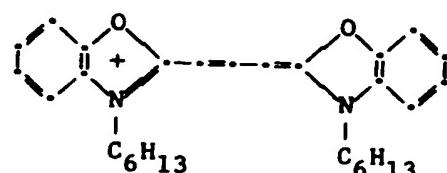
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 ClO_4^-

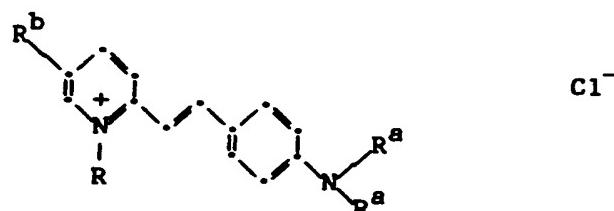
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FD-43

25

 Cl^-

30

 Cl^-

35

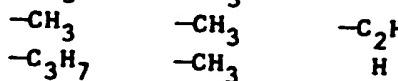
FD-44



FD-45



FD-46

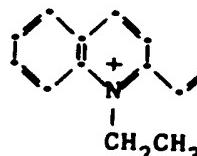


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FD-45

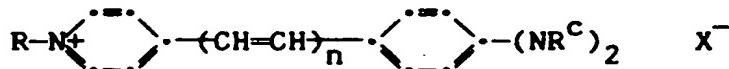
FD-46

FD-47

 I^-

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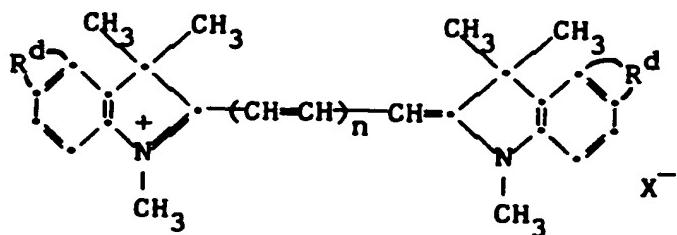
	<u>n</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R^C</u>	<u>x⁻</u>
5	FD-48	1 -CH ₃	C ₂ H ₅	PTS-
10	FD-49	1 (CH ₂) ₃ SO ₃ -	C ₅ H ₁₁	—
15	FD-50	1 (CH ₂) ₄ SO ₃ -	C ₅ H ₁₁	—
20	FD-51	2 (CH ₂) ₅ SO ₃ -	C ₂ H ₅	—
25	FD-52	3,3'-Ethylenethiacyanine p-toluenesulfonate		
25	FD-53	1',3-Ethylenethia-2'-cyanine chloride		
25	FD-54	1,1'-Ethylene-2,2'-cyanine chloride		
25	FD-55	3,3'-Ethylenoaxacyanine chloride		
25	FD-56	1,1'-Diethyl-3,3'-Ethylenebenzimidazolocyanine p-toluenesulfonate		
25	FD-57	1,1'-Diethyl-3,3'-methylenebenzimidazolocyanine chloride		
30	FD-58	1,1'-Ethylenecyanine chloride		
30	FD-59	1,1'-Methylenecyanine chloride		
30	FD-60	5,5',6,6'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-diethyl-3,3'-ethanediylbenzimidazolocyanine chloride		
30	FD-61	5,5',6,6'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-ethanediyl-3,3'-dimethylbenzimidazolocyanine chloride		
30	FD-62	Anhydro-5,5',6,6'-tetrachloro-1,1'-ethanediyl-3,3'-bis(3-sulfopropyl)benzimidazolo cyanine hydroxide, sodium salt		
35	FD-63	2,2'-Methanediylbis-(5,6-dichloro-1-methylbenzimidazole		
35	FD-64	5,5',6,6'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-dimethyl-3,3'-propanediylbenzimidazolocyanine p-toluenesulfonate		
35	FD-65	5,5',6,6'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-dimethyl-3,3'-methanediylbenzimidazolocyanine p-toluenesulfonate		
35	FD-66	5,5',6,6'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-ethanediyl-3,3'-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)benzimidazolocyanine p-toluenesulfonate		
35	FD-67	5,5',6,6'-Tetrachloro-1,1'-ethanediyl-3,3',8-trimethylbenzimidazolocyanine p-toluenesulfonate		
35		Many polymethine dyes are capable of maximum light absorption at longer visible (> 550 nm) wavelengths, with maximum fluorescence wavelengths generally lying in the red and near infrared portions of the spectrum. The following are illustrative of polymethine dyes capable of maximum light absorption at longer visible wavelengths:		

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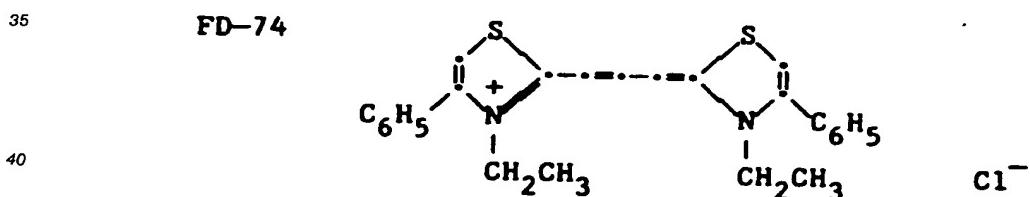
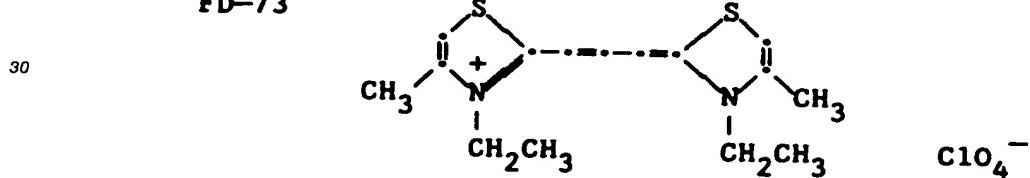
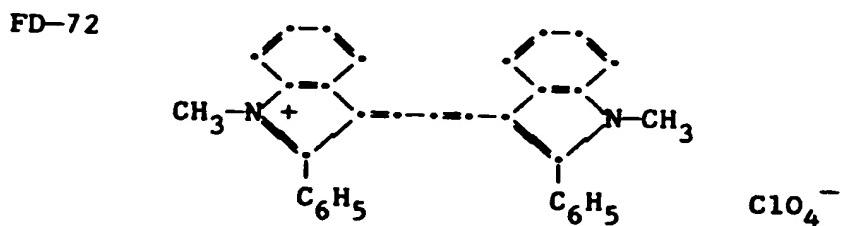
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	<u>n</u>	<u>R^d</u>	<u>X⁻</u>
FD-68	1	-	BF ₄ ⁻
FD-69	2	-	PTS
15	3	-	BF ₄ ⁻
FD-71	3	-(CH=CH) ₂	ClO ₄ ⁻



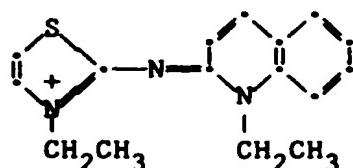
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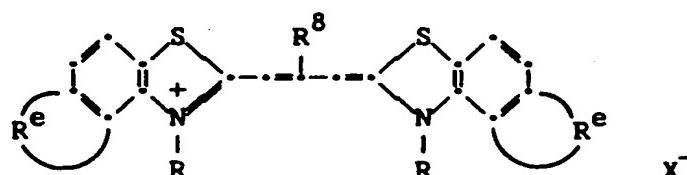
FD-75

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 Cl^-

10

15



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FD-76

 $-\text{C}_4\text{H}_9$ $\underline{\text{R}}^8$ $-\text{H}$ $\underline{\text{R}}^e$ $—$ Cl^-

25

FD-77

 $-\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{37}$ $-\text{H}$ $—$ PTS^-

FD-78

 $-\text{C}_4\text{H}_9$ $-\text{CH}_3$ $—$ Cl^-

FD-79

 $-\text{C}_5\text{H}_{11}$ $-\text{CH}_3$ $—$ Cl^-

FD-80

 $-1-\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$ $-\text{CH}_3$ $—$ Cl^-

FD-81

 $-\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$ $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ $—$ Cl^-

FD-82

 $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ $—$ $\text{C}_3\text{F}_7\text{COO}^-$

30

FD-83

 $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ $-\text{C}_6\text{H}_{11}$
(cyclohexyl) $\leftarrow\text{CH}=\text{CH}\rightarrow_2$ Cl^-

FD-84

 C_2H_5 $-\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{31}$ $\leftarrow\text{CH}=\text{CH}\rightarrow_2$ Cl^-

35

FD-85

 $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ $\underline{\text{R}}^{8a}$ H $\underline{\text{R}}^{8b}$ H $\underline{\text{R}}^{8c}$ H $\underline{\text{R}}^{8d}$ H $\underline{\text{R}}^f$ H $\underline{\text{X}}^-$

40

FD-86

 $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ H H H

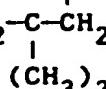
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FD-87

 $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ H H $-\text{CH}_3$

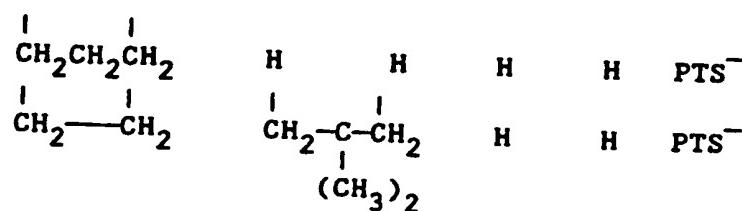
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FD-88

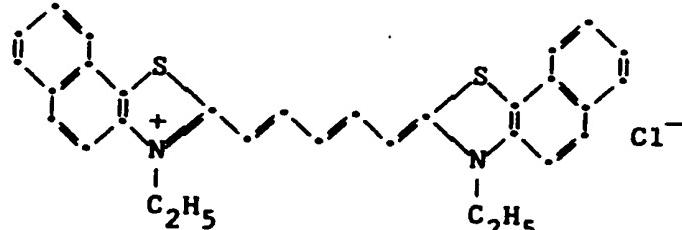
 $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ H H H  $\underline{\text{X}}^-$

55

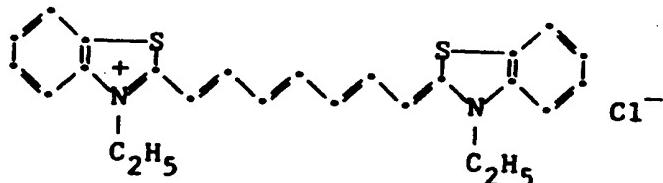
FD-89



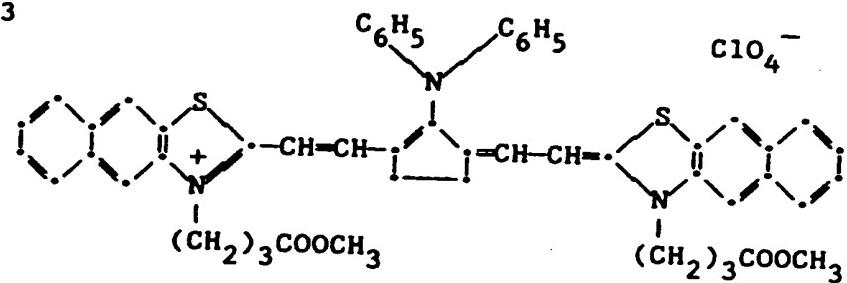
FD-91



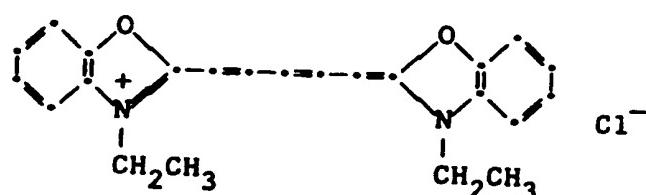
FD-92



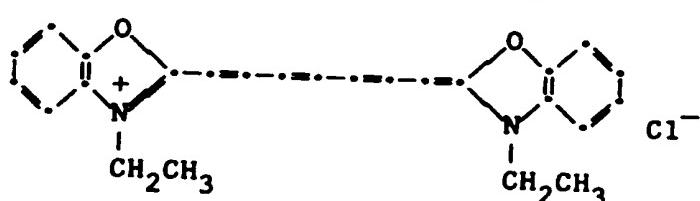
FD-93



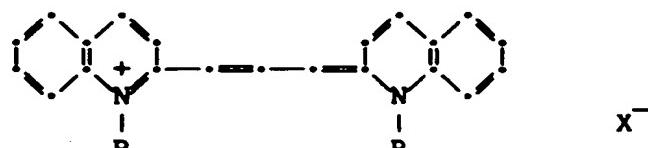
FD-94



FD-95



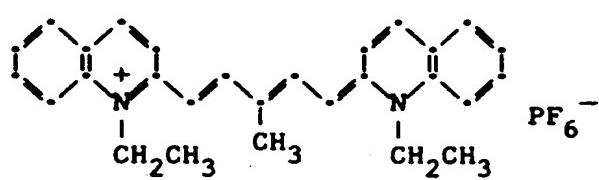
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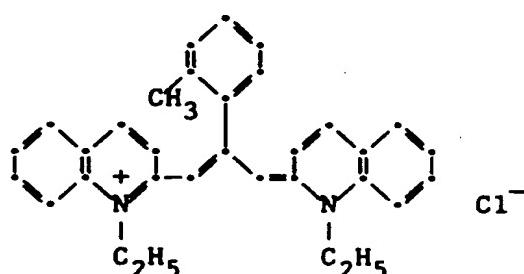
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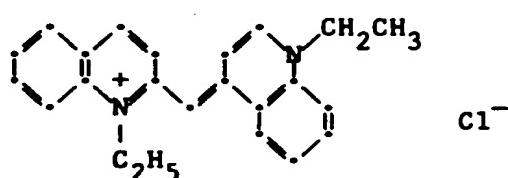
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FD-98

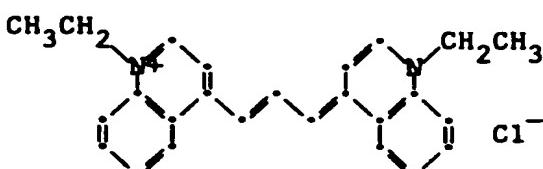
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FD-99

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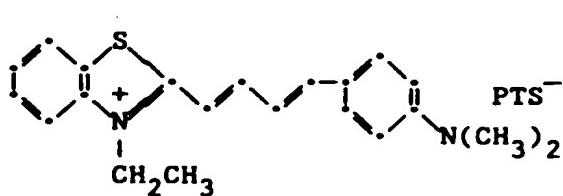
FD-100

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FD-101

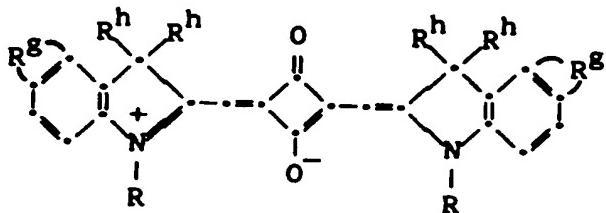
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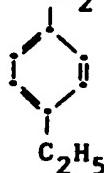
FD-102

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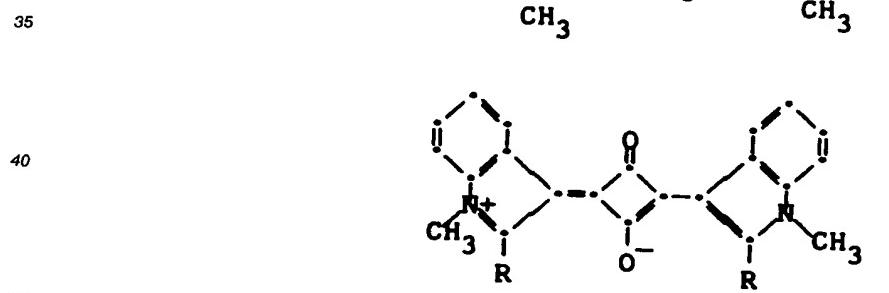
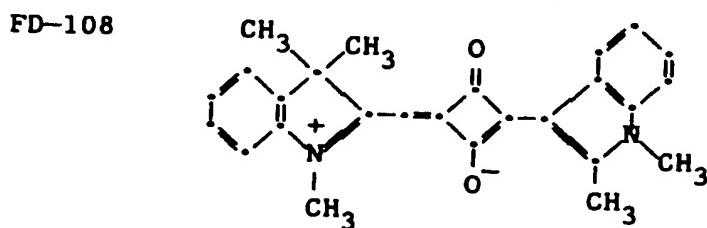
55



	<u>R^h</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R^g</u>
10	-CH ₃	-CH ₃	-
15	-CH ₃	-CH ₃	-CH=CH- ₂
	-CH ₃	-C ₆ H ₅	-
	-CH ₃	-CH ₂	-



25 FD-107 2 adjacent R^h = -CH₂-₅
i.e., spirocyclohexyl



40

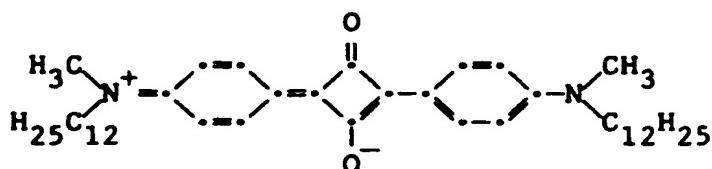
45 FD-109 R = C₆H₅
FD-110 R = -C₁₀H₇, i.e.
a-naphthyl

50

55

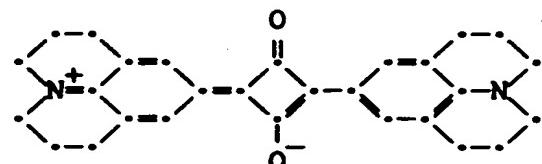
FD-111

5



FD-112

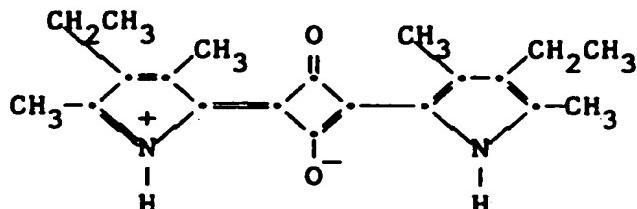
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15

FD-113

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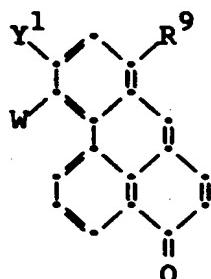


Another useful class of fluorescent dyes are 4-oxo-4H-benz-[d,e]anthracenes, hereinafter referred to as
25 oxobenzanthracene dyes. Preferred fluorescent oxobenzanthracene dyes are those represented by formula
XII:

(XII)

30

35



40 In this structure, R⁹ is hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl (preferably of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, e.g. methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, benzyl, phenethyl, etc.), substituted or unsubstituted hydroxyalkyl (preferably of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, e.g. hydroxymethyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-hydroxyisopropyl, etc.), or substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy carbonyl (preferably of 2 to 12 carbon atoms, e.g. methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, n-propoxycarbonyl, etc.). Preferably, R⁹ is hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy carbonyl, and more preferably it is substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy carbonyl.

45 W is hydrogen or an electron withdrawing group as that term is understood in the art (i.e. a group generally having a positive Hammett sigma value as determined by standard procedures). Particularly useful electron withdrawing groups include, but are not limited to, halo (e.g. fluoro, chloro, bromo), cyano, carboxy, acyl, substituted or unsubstituted arylsulfonyl (preferably of 6 to 10 carbon atoms, e.g. phenylsulfonyl, tolylsulfonyl, etc.), substituted or unsubstituted alkylsulfonyl (preferably of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, e.g. methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, etc.), substituted and unsubstituted dialkylphosphinyl (preferably where each alkyl group independently has 1 to 10 carbon atoms, e.g. methyl, ethyl, butyl, decyl, etc.) and substituted or unsubstituted dialkyl phosphono (preferably where each alkyl group independently has 1 to 10 carbon atoms as defined above). Preferably, W is hydrogen or halo.

55 Y¹ is hydrogen, or a group comprised of a heteroatom having a lone pair of electrons or a negative charge with an associated cation, e.g. hydroxy, mercapto or amino (-NR⁺R⁻). R⁺ and R⁻ are independently substituted or unsubstituted alkyl (preferably of 1 to 10 carbons, e.g., methyl, ethyl, decyl, etc.), substituted or unsubstituted aryl (preferably of 6 to 10 carbons, e.g., phenyl, naphthyl, etc.), or R⁺ and R⁻, taken

together, can represent the atoms necessary to complete a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic ring (preferably of 5 to 10 carbon, nitrogen or oxygen atoms, e.g. a morpholino, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, piperidino, etc. ring). Y¹ can also be substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy (preferably of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, e.g. methoxy, ethoxy, 2-chloro-1-propoxy, etc.), substituted or unsubstituted carbamyoxy

5



10

wherein R'' and R''' are defined above, -O⁻M⁺ or -S⁻M⁺, wherein M⁺ is a monovalent cation, e.g. Na⁺, K⁺, Li⁺, NH₄⁺, etc. Preferably Y¹ is hydroxy or -O⁻M⁺.

		<u>R⁹</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Y¹</u>
15	FD-114	Methyl	Hydrogen	Hydroxy
	FD-115	Methyl	Hydrogen	-O ⁻ Na ⁺
	FD-116	Methyl	Chloro	Hydroxy
20	FD-117	Methyl	Chloro	-O ⁻ Na ⁺
	FD-118	Methyl	Chloro	N-methyl-N-
				phenylcarbamyoxy
25	FD-119	Methyl	Hydrogen	Pyrrolidinyl
	FD-120	Butoxy-carbonyl	Hydrogen	Hydroxy
30	FD-121	Butoxy-carbonyl	Hydrogen	-O ⁻ Na ⁺
	FD-122	Butoxy-carbonyl	Chloro	-O ⁻ Na ⁺

35

The oxobenzanthracene dyes illustrated above can have one or more substituents other than those specifically illustrated in the structure as long as the substituents do not adversely affect the fluorescence of the compound, such as alkyl (e.g., alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms), aryl (e.g., phenyl), and other groups.

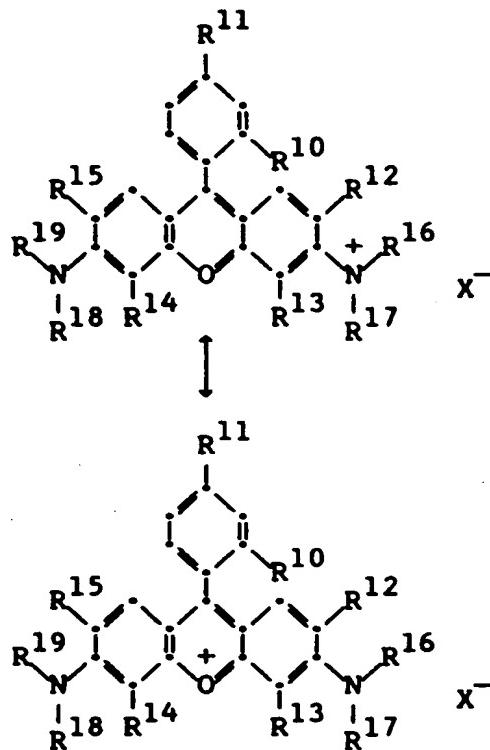
The oxobenzanthracene dyes can be prepared generally using the following procedure. The details of several preparations are provided in APPENDIX I below. The general preparatory procedure includes: (1) preparation of a dihydrophenalenone by the procedure described by Cooke et al, Australian J. Chem., 11, pp. 230-235 (1958), (2) preparation of the lithium enolate of the dihydrophenalenone, (3) reaction of the lithium enolate with the appropriate phosphonium iodide reagent, and (4) reaction of this product with cupric chloride and lithium chloride to produce the chlorinated or unchlorinated dye.

Another useful class of fluorescent dyes are xanthene dyes. One particularly preferred class of xanthene dyes are rhodamine dyes. Preferred fluorescent rhodamine dyes are those represented by formula XIII:

50

55

(XIII)



30 where

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are independently hydrogen, carboxyl, sulfonyl, alkanoyl, or alkoxy carbonyl groups;
 R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, and R¹⁵ are hydrogen;
 R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, and R¹⁹ are alkyl groups;

and

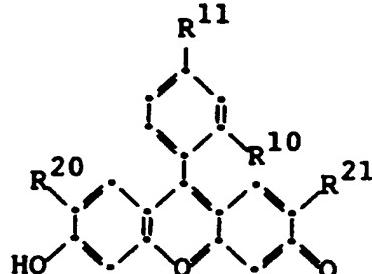
- 35 X⁻ is an anion; or
 any one of or all of following substituent pairs:
 R¹² and R¹⁶, R¹³ and R¹⁷, R¹⁴ and R¹⁸, and
 R¹⁵ and R¹⁹, complete a five or six membered ring containing nitrogen as the sole heteroatom.
 The alkyl moieties in each instance contain from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, preferably 1 to 3 carbon atoms.
- 40 When substituent pairs complete a fused ring, the ring can, for example, take the form of a pyran ring when a single fused ring including a formula nitrogen atom is formed or a julolidene ring (including a formula fused benzo ring) when two fused rings each including the same nitrogen atom of the formula are formed.

The following are illustrative of rhodamine dyes known to be useful laser dyes:

- 45 FD-123 [9-(o-Carboxyphenyl)-6-(diethylamino)-3H-xanthen-3-ylidene]diethyl ammonium chloride
 [a.k.a rhodamine B]
 FD-124 N-[6-[Diethylamino]-9-[2-(ethoxycarbonyl)phenyl]-3H-xanthen-3-ylidene]-N-ethylethanaminium perchlorate
 FD-125 Ethyl o-[6-(Ethylamino)-3-(ethylimino)-2,7-dimethyl-3H-xanthenyl]benzoate chloride
 FD-126 Ethyl o-[6-(ethylamino-3-(ethylimino)-2,7-dimethyl-3H-xanthenyl]benzoate perchlorate
 50 FD-127 Ethyl o-[6-(ethylamino)-3-(ethylimino)-2,7-dimethyl-3H-xanthenyl]benzoate tetrafluoroborate
 FD-128 o-[6-(ethylamino)-3-(ethylimino)-2,7-methyl-3H-xanthenyl]benzoic acid
 FD-129 o-(6-Amino-3-imino-3H-xanthenyl)benzoic acid hydrochloride
 FD-130 o-[6-(Methylamino)-3-methylimino)-3H-xanthen-9-yl]benzoic acid perchlorate
 FD-131 Methyl o-(6-amino-3'-imino-3H-xanthen-9-yl)benzoate monohydrochloride FD-132 8-(2,4-Disulfophenyl)-2,3,5,6,11,12, 14,15-1H,4H,10H,13H-cotahydroquinolizolinol[9,9a,1-bc;9,9a,1-hi]xanthyllium hydroxide inner salt
 FD-133 Sulforhodamine B
 FD-134 o-[6-Dimethylamino)-3-(dimethylamino)-3H-xanthen-9-yl]benzoic acid perchlorate

Another specifically preferred class of xanthene dyes are fluorescein dyes. Preferred fluorescein dyes are those represented by formula XIV:

(XIV)



5

10

15

where

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are as previously defined and

R²⁰ and R²¹ are hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, or halo substituents. Preferred alkyl groups contain from 1 to 5, optimally from 1 to 3 carbon atoms while phenyl is a preferred aryl group.

An illustrative fluorescein dye is

FD-135 9-(o-Carboxyphenyl)-6-hydroxy-3H-xanthen-3-one

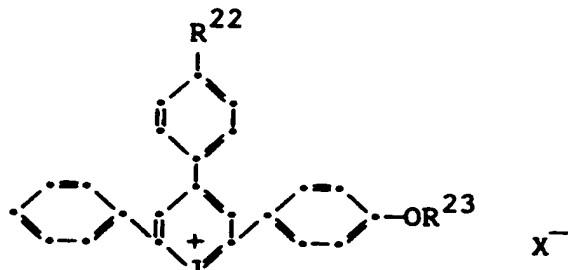
FD-136 9-(o-Carboxyphenyl)-2,7-dichloro-6-hydroxy-3H-xanthen-3-one

Another useful group of fluorescent dyes are pyrylium, thiapyrylium, selenapyrylium, and telluropyrylium dyes. Dyes from the first three of these classes are disclosed by Light U.S. Patent 3,615,414 while dyes of the latter class are disclosed by Detty U.S. Patent 4,584,258. Since the latter two classes of dyes are bathochromically shifted toward the infrared the former two classes of dyes are preferred for achieving visible light emissions.

Illustrative preferred fluorescent pyrylium and thiapyrylium dyes are represented by formula XV:

30

(XV)



35

where

R²² is hydrogen, methyl, or a tertiary amino group, optimally a -NR²³R²³ group;

R²³ is an alkyl group;

X⁻ is an anion; and

J is oxygen or sulfur.

The alkyl group preferably contains from 1 to 5 carbon atoms and optimally from 1 to 3 carbon atoms. Illustrative pyrylium and thiapyrylium fluorescent dyes satisfying formula XV are the following:

FD-137 4-(4-dimethylaminophenyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-phenylpyrylium perchlorate

FD-138 4,6-diphenyl-2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)thiapyrylium p-toluenesulfonate

FD-139 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-phenyl-4-(p-tolyl)-pyrylium tetrafluoroborate

Another useful class of fluorescent dyes are fluorescent carbostyryl dyes. These dyes are characterized by a 2-quinolinol or isoquinolinol ring structure, often fused with other rings. The wavelength of maximum fluorescence generally increases with the presence of other fused rings. Typical of simple carbostyryl dyes, which fluoresce in the blue portion of the spectrum, are the following:

FD-140 7-Amino-4-methyl-2-quinolinol

[a.k.a. 7-amino-4-methylcarbostyryl]

FD-141 7-Dimethylamino-2-hydroxy-4-methylquinoline

[a.k.a. 7-dimethylamino-4-methylcarbostyryl]

FD 142 3,3'-Bis[N-phenylisoquinoline]

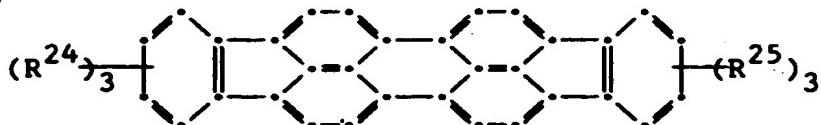
Examples of more complex fused ring carbostyryl dyes are provided by Kadhim and Peters, "New Intermediates and Dyes for Synthetic Polymer Fibres Substituted Benzimidazolothioxanthenoisoquinolines for Polyester Fibres", JSDC, June 1974, pp. 199-201, and Arient et al, "Imidazole Dyes XX-Colouring Properties of 1,2-Naphthooylenebenzimidazole Derivatives", JSDC, June 1968, pp. 246-251. Illustrative of these more complex carbostyryl dyes are the following:

FD-143 Benzimidazo[1,2-b]thioxantheno[2,1,9,d,e,f]isoquinolin-7-one and its stereo isomer Benzimidazo[1,2-a]thioxantheno[2,1,9,d,e,f]isoquinolin-7-one

Among other fused ring fluorescent dyes are the perylene dyes, characterised by a dinaphthylene nucleus. A variety of useful fluorescent perylene dyes are known, such as, for example those disclosed by Rademacher et al, "Soluble Perylene Fluorescent Dyes with Photostability", Chem. Ber., Vol. 115, pp. 2927-2934, 1982, and European Patent Application 553,363A1, published July 7, 1982. One preferred perylene dye is illustrated by formula XVI:

15

(XVI)



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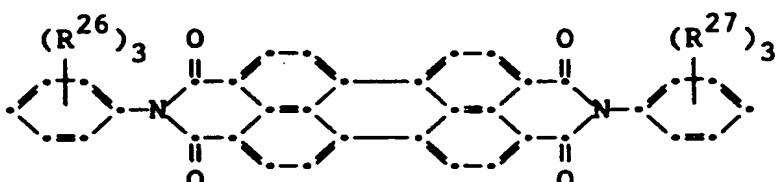
where

R²⁴ and R²⁵ are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, halo, and haloalkyl substituents. Preferred alkyl groups having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, optimally from 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

Another preferred group of perylene dyes are the 3,4,9,10-perylenebis(dicarboximides), hereinafter referred to as perylenebis(dicarboximide) dyes. Preferred dyes of this class are represented by formula XVII:

30

(XVII)



35

where

R²⁶ and R²⁷ are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, halo, and haloalkyl substituents. Preferred alkyl groups having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, optimally from 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

Illustrative of preferred perylene dyes are the following:

FD-144 Perylene

FD-145 1,2-Bis(5,6-o-phenylenenaphthalene)

FD-146 N,N'-diphenyl-3,4,9,10-perylenebis(dicarboximide)

45 FD-147 N,N'-di(p-tolyl)-3,4,9,10-perylenebis(dicarboximide)

FD-148 N,N'-di(2,6-di-t-butyl)-3,4,9,10-perylenebis(dicarboximide)

The foregoing listing of preferred fluorescent dyes useful in combination with the host materials, though lengthy, is recognized to be only exemplary of known fluorescent dyes, both in the classes specifically identified and in still other dye classes. For example, many other classes of known fluorescent dyes, such as acridine dyes; bis(styryl)benzene dyes; pyrene dyes; oxazine dyes; and phenyleneoxide dyes, sometimes referred to as POPOP dyes; are useful, specific illustrative dyes from these classes including the following:

FD-149 9-Aminoacridine hydrochloride

FD-150 p-Bis(o-methylstyryl)benzene

55 FD-151 2,2-p-Phenylenebis(4-methyl-5-phenyloxazole)

FD-152 5,9-Diaminobenzo[a]phenoxazonium perchlorate

FD-153 5-Amino-9-diethylaminobenz[a]phenoxazonium perchlorate

FD-154 3,7-Bis(diethylamino)phenoxazonium perchlorate

FD-155 3,7-Bis(ethylamino)-2,8-dimethylphenoxyazin-5-ium perchlorate

FD-156 9-Ethylamino-5-ethylimino-10-methyl-5H-benzo[a]phenoxyazonium perchlorate

FD-157 8-Hydroxy-1,3,6-pyrene-trisulfonic acid trisodium salt

Not only are there many available classes of fluorescent dyes to choose from, there are wide choices of individual dye properties within any given class. The absorption maxima and reduction potentials of individual dyes can be varied through the choice of substituents. As the conjugation forming the chromophore of the dye is increased the absorption maximum of a dye can be shifted bathochromically.

Emission maxima are bathochromic to the absorption maxima. Although the degree of bathochromic shifting can vary as a function of the dye class, usually the wavelength of maximum emission is from 25 to 10 125 nm bathochromically shifted as compared to the wavelength of maximum absorption. Thus, dyes which exhibit absorption maxima in the near ultraviolet in almost all cases exhibit maximum emissions in the blue portion of the spectrum. Dyes which exhibit absorption maxima in the blue portion of the spectrum exhibit emission maxima in the green portion of the spectrum, and, similarly, dyes with absorption maxima in the red portion of the spectra tend to exhibit emission maxima in the near infrared portion of the spectrum.

15 In one form of the invention the material forming the luminescent zone can be one uniform layer interposed between and contacting both the cathode and the hole injection zone of the EL device. As an alternative construction a separate layer containing the host material, but lacking the fluorescent material, can be interposed between the luminescent zone and the cathode. Although the additional interposed organic electron injection layer can be of any conventional form, it is preferred that both the electron 20 injection layer and the layer forming the luminescent zone be present in the form of a thin film (< 1 μm in thickness) and most preferred that these layers have a combined thickness no greater than those thicknesses indicated above for the luminescent zone.

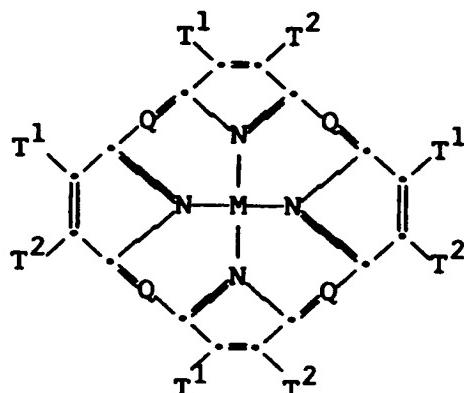
The organic luminescent medium of the EL devices of this invention preferably contains at least two 25 separate organic layers, at least one layer forming a zone for transporting electrons injected from the cathode and at least one layer forming a zone for transporting holes injected from the anode. The latter zone is in turn preferably formed of at least two layers, one, located in contact with the anode, providing a hole injecting zone and the remaining layer, interposed between the layer forming the hole injecting zone and the layer providing the electron transporting zone, providing a hole transporting zone. While the 30 description which follows is directed to the preferred embodiments of organic EL devices according to this invention which employ at least three separate organic layers, as taught by Van Slyke et al, it is appreciated that either the layer forming the hole injecting zone or the layer forming the hole transporting zone can be omitted and the remaining layer will perform both functions. Higher initial and sustained performance levels of the organic EL devices of this invention are realized when the separate hole injecting and hole transporting layers described below are employed in combination.

35 A layer containing a porphyrinic compound forms the hole injecting zone of the organic EL device. A porphyrinic compound is any compound, natural or synthetic, which is derived from or includes a prophyrin structure, including porphine itself. Any of the porphyrinic compounds disclosed by Adler U.S. Patent 3,935,031 or Tang U.S. Patent 4,356,329, can be employed.

Preferred porphyrinic compounds are those of structural formula (XVIII):

40

(XVIII)



45

50

55

wherein

Q is $-\text{N}=\text{}$ or $-\text{C}(\text{R})=;$

M is a metal, metal oxide, or metal halide;

R is hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, or alkaryl, and

T¹ and T² represent hydrogen or together complete a unsaturated 6 membered ring, which can include substituents, such as alkyl or halogen. Preferred 6 membered rings are those formed of carbon, sulfur, and nitrogen ring atoms. Preferred alkyl moieties contain from about 1 to 6 carbon atoms while phenyl constitutes a preferred aryl moiety.

In an alternative preferred form the porphyrinic compounds differ from those of structural formula (XVIII) by substitution of two hydrogen for the metal atom, as indicated by formula (IXX):

10

(IXX)

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25

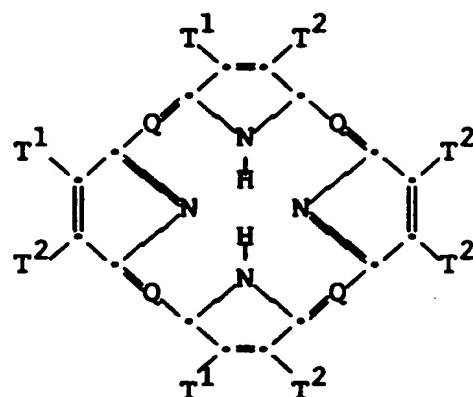
Highly preferred examples of useful porphyrinic compounds are metal free phthalocyanines and metal containing phthalocyanines. While the porphyrinic compounds in general and the phthalocyanines in particular can contain any metal, the metal preferably has a positive valence of two or higher. Exemplary preferred metals are cobalt, magnesium, zinc, palladium, nickel, and particularly, copper, lead, and platinum.

30 Illustrative of useful porphyrinic compounds are the following:

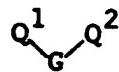
- PC-1 Porphine
- PC-2 1,10,15,20-Tetraphenyl-21H,23H-porphine copper (II)
- PC-3 1,10,15,20-Tetraphenyl-21H,23H-porphine zinc (II)
- PC-4 5,10,15,20-Tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)-21H,23H-porphine
- 35 PC-5 Silicon phthalocyanine oxide
- PC-6 Aluminum phthalocyanine chloride
- PC-7 Phthalocyanine (metal free)
- PC-8 Dilithium phthalocyanine
- PC-9 Copper tetramethylphthalocyanine
- 40 PC-10 Copper phthalocyanine
- PC-11 Chromium phthalocyanine fluoride
- PC-12 Zinc phthalocyanine
- PC-13 Lead phthalocyanine
- PC-14 Titanium phthalocyanine oxide
- 45 PC-15 Magnesium phthalocyanine
- PC-16 Copper octamethylphthalocyanine

The hole transporting layer of the organic EL device contains at least one hole transporting aromatic tertiary amine, where the latter is understood to be a compound containing at least one trivalent nitrogen atom that is bonded only to carbon atoms, at least one of which is a member of an aromatic ring. In one form the aromatic tertiary amine can be an arylamine, such as a monoarylamine, diarylamine, triarylamine, or a polymeric arylamine. Exemplary monomeric triarylamines are illustrated by Klupfel et al U.S. Patent 3,180,730. Other suitable triarylamines substituted with vinyl or vinylene radicals and/or containing at least one active hydrogen containing group are disclosed by Brantley et al U.S. Patents 3,567,450 and 3,658,520.

50 A preferred class of aromatic tertiary amines are those which include at least two aromatic tertiary amine moieties. Such compounds include those represented by structural formula (XX):



(XX)



5

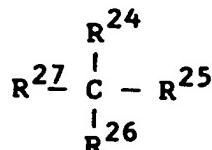
wherein

 Q^1 and Q^2 are independently aromatic tertiary amine moieties and G is a linking group such an arylene, cycloalkylene, or alkylene group or a carbon to carbon bond.

A particularly preferred class of class of triarylamines satisfying structural formula (XX) and containing

10 two triarylamine moieties are those satisfying structural formula (XXI):

(XXI)



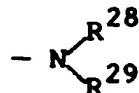
15

20 where

 R^{24} and R^{25} each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, or an alkyl group or R^{24} and R^{25} together represent the atoms completing a cycloalkyl group and R^{26} and R^{27} each independently represents an aryl group which is in turn substituted with a diaryl substituted amino group, as indicated by structural formula (XXII):

25

(XXII)



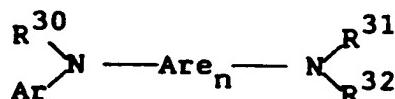
30

wherein R^{28} and R^{29} are independently selected aryl groups.

Another preferred class of aromatic tertiary amines are tetraaryldiamines. Preferred tetraaryldiamines include two diarylmino groups, such as indicated by formula (XXII), linked through an arylene group.

35 Preferred tetraaryldiamines include those represented by formula (XXIII).

(XXIII)



40

wherein

Are is an arylene group,

45 n is an integer of from 1 to 4, and

 Ar, R^{30}, R^{31} , and R^{32} are independently selected aryl groups.

The various alkyl, alkylene, aryl, and arylene moieties of the foregoing structural formulae (XX), (XXI), (XXII), and (XXIII) can each in turn be substituted. Typical substituents including alkyl groups, alkoxy groups, aryl groups, aryloxy groups, and halogen such as fluoride, chloride, and bromide. The various alkyl and alkylene moieties typically contain from about 1 to 6 carbon atoms. The cycloalkyl moieties can contain from 3 to about 10 carbon atoms, but typically contain five, six, or seven ring carbon atoms-e.g., cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, and cycloheptyl ring structures. The aryl and arylene moieties are preferably phenyl and phenylene moieties.

While the entire hole transporting layer of the organic electroluminesce medium can be formed of a 55 single aromatic tertiary amine, it is a further recognition of this invention that increased stability can be realized by employing a combination of aromatic tertiary amines. Specifically, as demonstrated in the examples below, it has been observed that employing a triarylamine, such as a triarylamine satisfying formula (XXI), in combination with a tetraaryldiamine, such as indicated by formula (XXIII), can be

advantageous. When a triarylamine is employed in combination with a tetraaryldiamine, the latter is positioned as a layer interposed between the triarylamine and the electron injecting and transporting layer.

Representative useful aromatic tertiary amines are disclosed by Berwick et al U.S. Patent 4,175,960 and Van Slyke et al U.S. Patent 4,539,507. Berwick et al in addition discloses as useful hole transporting compounds N substituted carbazoles, which can be viewed as ring bridged variants of the diaryl and triarylamines disclosed above.

Illustrative of useful aromatic tertiary amines are the following:

- ATA-1 1,1-Bis(4-di-p-tolylaminophenyl)cyclohexane
- ATA-2 1,1-Bis(4-di-p-tolylaminophenyl)-4-phenylcyclohexane
- 10 ATA-3 4,4'-Bis(diphenylamino)quadrifluorophenyl
- ATA-4 Bis(4-dimethylamino-2-methylphenyl)phenylmethane
- ATA-5 N,N,N-Tri(p-tolyl)amine
- ATA-6 4-(di-p-tolylamino)-4'-(4-(di-p-tolylamino)styryl)stilbene
- ATA-7 N,N,N',N'-Tetra-p-tolyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl
- 15 ATA-8 N,N,N',N'-Tetraphenyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl
- ATA-9 N-Phenylcarbazole
- ATA-10 Poly(N-vinylcarbazole)

Any conventional electron injecting and transporting compound or compounds can be employed in forming the layer of the organic luminescent medium adjacent the cathode. This layer can be formed by historically taught luminescent materials, such as anthracene, naphthalene, phenanthrene, pyrene, chrysene, and perylene and other fused ring luminescent materials containing up to about 8 fused rings as illustrated by Gurnee et al U.S. Patent 3,172,862, Gurnee U.S. Patent 3,173,050, Dresner, "Double Injection Electroluminescence in Anthracene", RCA Review, Vol. 30, pp. 322-334, 1969, and Dresner U.S. Patent 3,710,167, cited above. Although such fused ring luminescent materials do not lend themselves to forming thin (<1 μm) films and therefore do not lend themselves to achieving the highest attainable EL device performance levels, organic EL devices incorporating such luminescent materials when constructed according to the invention show improvements in performance and stability over otherwise comparable prior art EL devices.

In the organic EL devices of the invention it is possible to maintain a current density compatible with efficient light emission while employing a relatively low voltage across the electrodes by limiting the total thickness of the organic luminescent medium to less than 1 μm (10,000 Angstroms). At a thickness of less than 1 μm an applied voltage of 20 volts results in a field potential of greater than 2×10^5 volts/cm, which is compatible with efficient light emission. An order of magnitude reduction (to 0.1 μm or 1000 Angstroms) in thickness of the organic luminescent medium, allowing further reductions in applied voltage and/or increase in the field potential and hence current density, are well within device construction capabilities.

One function which the organic luminescent medium performs is to provide a dielectric barrier to prevent shorting of the electrodes on electrical biasing of the EL device. Even a single pin hole extending through the organic luminescent medium will allow shorting to occur. Unlike conventional EL devices employing a single highly crystalline luminescent material, such as anthracene, for example, the EL devices of this invention are capable of fabrication at very low overall organic luminescent medium thicknesses without shorting. One reason is that the presence of three superimposed layers greatly reduces the chance of pin holes in the layers being aligned to provide a continuous conduction path between the electrodes. This in itself permits one or even two of the layers of the organic luminescent medium to be formed of materials which are not ideally suited for film formation on coating while still achieving acceptable EL device performance and reliability.

The preferred materials for forming the organic luminescent medium are each capable of fabrication in the form of a thin film—that is, capable of being fabricated as a continuous layer having a thickness of less than 0.5 μm or 5000 Angstroms.

When one or more of the layers of the organic luminescent medium are solvent coated, a film forming polymeric binder can be conveniently codeposited with the active material to assure a continuous layer free of structural defects, such as pin holes. If employed, a binder must, of course, itself exhibit a high dielectric strength, preferably at least about 2×10^6 volt/cm. Suitable polymers can be chosen from a wide variety of known solvent cast addition and condensation polymers. Illustrative of suitable addition polymers are polymers and copolymers (including terpolymers) of styrene, t-butylstyrene, N-vinyl carbazole, vinyltoluene, methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, acrylonitrile, and vinyl acetate. Illustrative of suitable condensation polymers are polyesters, polycarbonates, polyimides, and polysulfones. To avoid unnecessary dilution of the active material, binders are preferably limited to less than 50 percent by weight, based on the total weight of the material forming the layer.

The preferred active materials forming the organic luminescent medium are each film forming materials and capable of vacuum vapor deposition. Extremely thin defect free continuous layers can be formed by vacuum vapor deposition. Specifically, individual layer thicknesses as low as about 50 Angstroms can be present while still realizing satisfactory EL device performance. Employing a vacuum vapor deposited porphoric compound as a hold injecting layer, a film forming aromatic tertiary amine as a hole transporting layer (which can in turn be comprised of a triarylamine layer and a tetraaryldiamine layer), and a chelated oxinoid compound as an electron injecting and transporting layer, individual layer thicknesses in the range of from about 50 to 5000 Angstroms are contemplated, with layer thicknesses in the range of from 100 to 2000 Angstroms being preferred. It is generally preferred that the overall thickness of the organic luminescent medium be at least about 1000 Angstroms.

5 The anode and cathode of the organic EL device can each take any convenient conventional form. Where it is intended to transmit light from the organic EL device through the anode, this can be conveniently achieved by coating a thin conductive layer onto a light transmissive substrate-e.g., a transparent or substantially transparent glass plate or plastic film. In one form the organic EL devices of this 10 invention can follow the historical practice of including a light transmissive anode formed of tin oxide or indium tin oxide coated on a glass plate, as disclosed by Gurnee et al U.S. Patent 3,172,862, Gurnee U.S. Patent 3,173,050, Dresner, "Double Injection Electroluminescence in Anthracene", RCA Review, Vol. 30, pp. 322-334, 1969; and Dresner U.S. Patent 3,710,167, cited above. While any light transmissive polymeric film 15 can be employed as a substrate, Gillson U.S. Patent 2,733,367 and Swindells U.S. Patent 2,941,104 disclose polymeric films specifically selected for this purpose.

20 As employed herein the term "light transmissive" means simply that the layer or element under discussion transmits greater than 50 percent of the light of at least one wavelength it receives and preferably over at least a 100 nm interval. Since both specular (unscattered) and diffused (scattered) emitted light are desirable device outputs, both translucent and transparent or substantially transparent 25 materials are useful. In most instances the light transmissive layers or elements of the organic EL device are also colorless or of neutral optical density-that is, exhibiting no markedly higher absorption of light in one wavelength range as compared to another. However, it is, of course, recognized that the light transmissive electrode supports or separate superimposed films or elements can be tailored in their light absorption properties to act as emission trimming filters, if desired. Such an electrode construction is 30 disclosed, for example, by Fleming U.S. Patent 4,035,686. The light transmissive conductive layers of the electrodes, where fabricated of thicknesses approximating the wavelengths or multiples of the light wavelengths received can act as interference filters.

35 Contrary to historical practice, in one preferred form the organic EL devices of this invention emit light through the cathode rather than the anode. This relieves the anode of any requirement that it be light transmissive, and it is, in fact, preferably opaque to light in this form of the invention. Opaque anodes can be formed of any metal or combination of metals having a suitably high work function for anode construction. Preferred anode metals have a work function of greater than 4 electron volts (eV). Suitable anode metals can be chosen from among the high (> 4 eV) work function metals listed below. An opaque anode can be formed of an opaque metal layer on a support or as a separate metal foil or sheet.

40 The organic EL devices of this invention can employ a cathode constructed of any metal, including any high or low work function metal, heretofore taught to be useful for this purpose. Unexpected fabrication, performance, and stability advantages have been realized by forming the cathode of a combination of a low work function metal and at least one other metal. A low work function metal is herein defined as a metal having a work function of less than 4 eV. Generally the lower the work function of the metal, the lower the 45 voltage required for electron injection into the organic luminescent medium. However, alkali metals, the lowest work function metals, are too reactive to achieve stable EL device performance with simple device constructions and construction procedures and are excluded (apart from impurity concentrations) from the preferred cathodes of this invention.

50 Available low work function metal choices for the cathode (other than alkali metals) are listed below by periods of the Periodic Table of Elements and categorized into 0.5 eV work function groups. All work functions provided are taken Sze, Physics of Semiconductor Devices, Wiley, N.Y., 1969, p. 366.

<u>Period</u>	<u>Element</u>	<u>Work Function</u>
		<u>By eV Group</u>
5	2 Beryllium	3.5 - 4.0
	3 Magnesium	3.5 - 4.0
	4 Calcium	2.5 - 3.0
	Scandium	3.0 - 3.5
10	Titanium	3.5 - 4.0
	Manganese	3.5 - 4.0
	Gallium	3.5 - 4.0
15	5 Strontium	2.0 - 2.5
	Yttrium	3.0 - 3.5
	Indium	3.5 - 4.0
20	6 Barium	~2.5
	Lanthanum	3.0 - 3.5
	Cerium	2.5 - 3.0
	Praseodymium	2.5 - 3.0
25	Neodymium	3.0 - 3.5
	Promethium	3.0 - 3.5
	Samarium	3.0 - 3.5
30	Europium	2.5 - 3.0
	Gadolinium	3.0 - 3.5
	Terbium	3.0 - 3.5
35	Dysprosium	3.0 - 3.5
	Holmium	3.0 - 3.5
	Erbium	3.0 - 3.5
	Thulium	3.0 - 3.5
40	Ytterbium	2.5 - 3.0
	Lutetium	3.0 - 3.5
	Hafnium	~3.5
45	7 Radium	3.0 - 3.5
	Actinium	2.5 - 3.0
	Thorium	3.0 - 3.5
50	Uranium	3.0 - 3.5

From the foregoing listing it is apparent that the available low work function metals for the most part belong to the Group IIa or alkaline earth group of metals, the Group III group of metals (including the rare earth metals-i.e. yttrium and the lanthanides, but excluding boron and aluminum), and the actinide groups of metals. The alkaline earth metals, owing to their ready availability, low cost, ease of handling, and minimal adverse environmental impact potential, constitute a preferred class of low work function metals for use in the cathodes of EL devices of this invention. Magnesium and calcium are particularly preferred. Though significantly more expensive, the included Group III metals, particularly the rare earth metals, possess

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similar advantages and are specifically contemplated as preferred low work function metals. The low work function metals exhibiting work functions in the range of from 3.0 to 4.0 eV are generally more stable than metals exhibiting lower work functions and are therefore generally preferred.

5 A second metal included in the construction of the cathode has as one primary purpose to increase the stability (both storage and operational) of the cathode. It can be chosen from among any metal other than an alkali metal. The second metal can itself be a low work function metal and thus be chosen from the metals listed above having a work function of less than 4 eV, with the same preferences above discussed being fully applicable. To the extent that the second metal exhibits a low work function it can, of course, supplement the first metal in facilitating electron injection.

10 Alternatively, the second metal can be chosen from any of the various metals having a work function greater than 4 eV, which includes the elements more resistant to oxidation and therefore more commonly fabricated as metallic elements. To the extent the second metal remains invariant in the organic EL device as fabricated, it contributes to the stability of the device.

15 Available higher work function (4 eV or greater) metal choices for the cathode are listed below by periods of the Periodic Table of Elements and categorized into 0.5 eV work function groups.

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		<u>Work Function</u>	
	<u>Period</u>	<u>Element</u>	<u>By eV Group</u>
5	2	Boron	~4.5
10		Carbon	4.5 - 5.0
15	3	Aluminum	4.0 - 4.5
20		Vanadium	4.0 - 4.5
25	4	Chromium	4.5 - 5.0
30		Iron	4.0 - 4.5
35	5	Cobalt	4.0 - 4.5
40		Nickel	~4.5
45	6	Copper	4.0 - 4.5
50		Zinc	4.0 - 4.5
55	7	Germanium	4.5 - 5.0
60		Arsenic	5.0 - 5.5
65	8	Selenium	4.5 - 5.0
70		Molybdenum	4.0 - 4.5
75	9	Technetium	4.0 - 4.5
80		Ruthenium	4.5 - 5.0
85	10	Rhodium	4.5 - 5.0
90		Palladium	4.5 - 5.0
95	11	Silver	4.0 - 4.5
100		Cadmium	4.0 - 4.5
105	12	Tin	4.0 - 4.5
110		Antimony	4.0 - 4.5
115	13	Tellurium	4.5 - 5.0
120		Tantalum	4.0 - 4.5
125	14	Tungsten	~4.5
130		Rhenium	~5.0
135	15	Osmium	4.5 - 5.0
140		Iridium	5.5 - 6.0
145	16	Platinum	5.5 - 6.0
150		Gold	4.5 - 5.0
155	17	Mercury	~4.5
160		Lead	~4.0
165	18	Bismuth	4.0 - 4.5
170		Polonium	4.5 - 5.0

From the foregoing listing of available metals having a work function of 4 eV or greater attractive higher work function metals for the most part are accounted for aluminum, the Group Ib metals (copper, silver and gold), the metals in Groups IV, V, and VI, and the Group VIII transition metals, particularly the noble metals from this group. Aluminum, copper, silver, gold, tin, lead, bismuth, tellurium, and antimony are particularly preferred higher work function second metals for incorporation in the cathode.

There are several reasons for not restricting the choice of the second metal based on either its work function or oxidative stability. The second metal is only a minor component of the cathode. One of its primary functions is to stabilize the first, low work function metal, and, surprisingly, it accomplishes this objective independent of its own work function and susceptibility to oxidation.

A second valuable function which the second metal performs is to reduce the sheet resistance of the cathode as a function of the thickness of the cathode. Since acceptably low sheet resistance levels (less than 100 ohms per square) can be realized at low cathode thicknesses (less than 250 Angstroms), cathodes can be formed which exhibit high levels of light transmission. This permits highly stable, thin, transparent cathodes of acceptably low resistance levels and high electron injecting efficiencies to be achieved for the first time. This in turn permits (but does not require) the organic EL devices of this invention to be constructed with light transmissive cathodes and frees the organic EL devices of any necessity of having a light transmissive anode to achieve light emission through an electrode area.

A third valuable function which the second metal has been observed to perform is to facilitate vacuum vapor deposition of a first metal onto the organic luminescent medium of the EL device. In vapor deposition less metal is deposited on the walls of the vacuum chamber and more metal is deposited on the organic luminescent medium when a second metal is also deposited. The efficacy of the second metal in stabilizing organic EL device, reducing the sheet resistance of thin cathodes, and in improving acceptance of the first metal by the organic luminescence medium is demonstrated by the examples below.

Only a very small proportion of a second metal need be present to achieve these advantages. Only about 0.1 percent of the total metal atoms of the cathode need be accounted for by the second metal to achieve a substantial improvement. Where the second metal is itself a low work function metal, both the first and second metals are low work function metals, and it is immaterial which is regarded as the first metal and which is regarded as the second metal. For example, the cathode composition can range from about 0.1 percent of the metal atoms of the cathode being accounted for by one low work function metal to about 0.1 percent of the total metal atoms being accounted for by a second low work function metal. Preferably one of the two metals account for at least 1 percent and optimally at least 2 percent of the total metal present.

When the second metal is a relatively higher (at least 4.0 eV) work function metal, the low work function metal preferably accounts for greater than 50 percent of the total atoms of the cathode. This is to avoid reduction in electron injection efficiency by the cathode, but it is also predicated on the observation that the benefits of adding a second metal are essentially realized when the second metal accounts for less than 20 percent of the total metal atoms of the cathode.

Although the foregoing discussion has been in terms of a binary combination of metals forming the cathode, it is, of course, appreciated that combinations of three, four, or even higher numbers of metals are possible and can be employed, if desired. The proportions of the first metal noted above can be accounted for by any convenient combination of low work function metals and the proportions of the second metal can be accounted for any combination of high and/or low work function metals.

While the second metal or metals can be relied upon to enhance electrical conductivity, their minor proportion of the total cathode metal renders it unnecessary that these metals be present in an electrically conducting form. The second metal or metals can be present as compounds (e.g., lead, tin, or antimony telluride) or in an oxidized form, such as in the form of one or more metal oxides or salts. Since the first, low work function metal or metals account for the major proportion of the cathode metal content and are relied upon for electron conduction, they are preferably employed in their elemental form, although some oxidation may occur on aging.

In depositing the first metal alone onto a substrate or onto the organic luminescent medium, whether from solution or, preferably, from the vapor phase, initial, spatially separated deposits of the first metal form nuclei for subsequent deposition. Subsequent deposition leads to the growth of these nuclei into microcrystals. The result is an uneven and random distribution of microcrystals, leading to a non-uniform cathode. By presenting a second metal during at least one of the nucleation and growth stages and, preferably, both, the high degree of symmetry which a single element affords is reduced. Since no two substances from crystal cells of exactly the same habit and size, any second metal reduces the degree of symmetry and at least to some extent acts to retard microcrystal growth. Where the first and second metals have distinctive crystal habits, spatial symmetry is further reduced and microcrystal growth is further retarded. Retarding

microcrystal growth favors the formation of additional nucleation sites. In this way the number of deposition sites is increased and a more uniform coating is achieved.

Depending upon the specific choice of metals, the second metal, where more compatible with the substrate, can produce a disproportionate number of the nucleation sites, with the first metal then depositing 5 at these nucleation sites. Such a mechanism may, if fact, account for the observation that, with a second metal present, the efficiency with which the first metal is accepted by a substrate is significantly enhanced. It has been observed, for example, that less deposition of the first metal occurs on vacuum chamber walls when a second metal is being codeposited.

The first and second metals of the cathode are intimately intermingled, being codeposited. That is, the 10 deposition of neither the first nor second metals is completed before at least a portion of the remaining metal is deposited. Simultaneous deposition of the first and second metals is generally preferred. Alternatively, successive incremental depositions of the first and second metals can be undertaken, which at their limit may approximate concurrent deposition.

While not required, the cathode, once formed can be given post treatments. For example, the cathode 15 may be heated within the stability limits of the substrate in a reducing atmosphere. Other action on the cathode can be undertaken as a conventionally attendant feature of lead bonding or device encapsulation.

Examples

20 The invention and its advantages are further illustrated by the specific examples which follow. The term "atomic percent" indicates the percentage of a particular metal present, based on the total number of metal atoms present. In other words, it is analogous to mole percent, but is based on atoms rather than molecules. The term "cell" as employed in the examples denotes an organic EL device.

25 Examples 1-6 Hue Modification

An EL device containing an organic luminescent medium satisfying the requirements of the invention was constructed in the following manner:

- a) A transparent anode of indium tin oxide coated glass was polished with 0.05 µm alumina abrasive for 30 a few minutes, followed by ultrasonic cleaning in a 1:1 (volume) mixture of isopropyl alcohol and distilled water. It was rinsed with isopropyl alcohol and then immersed in toluene vapor for about 5 minutes.
- b) A hole injecting and transporting ATA-1 0,075 µm (750 Å) layer was then deposited on the anode. ATA-1 was evaporated from a quartz boat using a tungsten filament.
- c) An electron injecting and transporting layer 0,075 µm (750 Å) forming the luminescent zone was then 35 deposited on top of the ATA-1 layer. HM-1 was employed as a host material and was evaporated from a quartz boat. The fluorescent material to be incorporated in the luminescent zone as a dopant was concurrently evaporated from a separate quartz boat. In one instance no fluorescent material was incorporated. Tungsten filaments were employed for both evaporation.
- d) On top of the luminescent zone was deposited a 0,2 µm (2000 Å) cathode formed of a 10:1 atomic 40 ratio of Mg and Ag.

The shift in hue of light emitted by the organic EL device attributable to the presence of differing fluorescent materials is summarized below in Table I. The power conversion of the organic EL device (hereinafter also referred to simply as efficiency) was measured as the ratio of the power of the light emitted to the electrical power supplied, measured at a light output level of 0.05 mW/cm². The relative efficiency 45 was determined by dividing the efficiency of the EL device being examined by the efficiency of the corresponding EL device lacking a dopant.

Table I

<u>EL</u>	<u>Conc.</u>	<u>Rel. Power</u>		
<u>Device</u>	<u>Dopant</u>	<u>Mole %</u>	<u>Conv. Eff.</u>	<u>Hue</u>
Control	None	0	1	Green
Ex. 1	FD-27	3×10^{-1}	1.5	Orange
Ex. 2	FD-28	1.6×10^{-1}	2	Red-orange
Ex. 3	FD-29	0.5×10^{-1}	0.5	Red-orange
Ex. 4	FD-30	2×10^{-1}	0.8	Red-orange
Ex. 5	FD-31	6×10^{-1}	0.6	Red-orange
Ex. 6	FD-119	0.3×10^{-1}	0.9	Orange-green

From Table I it is apparent that in all instances the presence of the fluorescent dye as a dopant shifted light emission to longer wavelengths. By comparing spectra of emitted light with and without FD-28 present it was determined that the peak emission was shifted from about 540 nm to 610 nm by the addition of the fluorescent dye. The presence of FD-27 and FD-28 had the further beneficial effect of markedly increasing the power conversion efficiencies of the organic EL devices. The control EL device has an absolute efficiency of 5×10^{-3} W/W.

Examples 7-13 Hue as a Function of Concentration

A series of organic EL devices were prepared as described in Examples 1 through 6, using FD-31 at differing concentration levels. The results are summarized in Table II.

Table II

<u>Conc. Mole %</u>	<u>Rel. Eff. (W/W)</u>	<u>Emission λ_{max}</u>
0	1.0	535
2.2×10^{-2}	0.9	648
6.2×10^{-2}	0.4	640
1.1×10^{-1}	0.8	645
3.2×10^{-1}	0.35	666
4.5×10^{-1}	0.27	665
4.4	0.14	690

From Table II it is apparent that the peak wavelength of emission was shifted over the range of 155 nm. Output efficiencies declined somewhat as the level of fluorescent material was increased. However, output efficiencies measured at 690 nm were actually enhanced as compared to that of the EL devices containing the undoped HM-1.

Example 14 Stability

An EL device containing an organic luminescent medium satisfying the requirements of the invention was constructed in the following manner:

- a) A transparent anode of indium tin oxide coated glass was polished with 0.05 μm alumina abrasive for a few minutes, followed by ultrasonic cleaning in a 1:1 (volume) mixture of isopropyl alcohol and distilled water. It was rinsed with isopropyl alcohol and then immersed in toluene vapor for about 5 minutes.
- b) A hole injecting PC-10 0.03 μm (300 \AA) was deposited on the anode by vacuum vapor deposition. PC-10 was evaporated from a quartz boat using a tungsten filament.
- c) A hole transporting ATA-1 0.035 μm (350 \AA) layer was then deposited on the hole injecting layer.

ATA-1 was evaporated from a quartz boat using a tungsten filament.

d) An electron injecting and transporting layer 0,075 µm (750 Å) forming the luminescent zone was then deposited on top of the ATA-1 layer. HM-1 was employed as a host material and was evaporated from a quartz boat. FD-28 was incorporated in the luminescent zone as a dopant as a concentration of 2 mole percent, based on HM-1, by concurrently evaporation from a separate quartz boat. Tungsten filaments were employed for both evaporations.

e) On top of the luminescent zone was deposited a 0,2 µm (2000 Å) cathode formed of a 10:1 atomic ratio of Mg and Ag.

The cell was run at a constant current of 20 mA/cm² in a dry argon atmosphere. The initial light output was 0.45 mW/cm². After continuous operation for 500 hours the light output was 0.15 mW/cm².

When a cell was constructed and operated as described above, but with FD-28 omitted, the light output of the cell dropped below 0.15 mW/cm² after only 250 hours of operation.

Examples 15-28 Reduction of Potentials and Bandgaps

A series of EL devices were constructed as described in Example 14, but with differing fluorescent dyes present. The reduction potentials and bandgaps of the fluorescent dyes successfully employed and the host material HM-1 are compared in Table III.

Table III

<u>Material</u>	<u>E-red volts</u>	<u>Bandgap ev</u>	<u>Rel. Eff. (W/W)</u>
HM-1	-1.79	2.81	1.0
FD-4	-1.46	2.5	2.0
FD-5	-1.58	2.58	2.0
FD-7	-1.77	2.75	0.8
FD-15	-1.69	2.63	1.0
FD-19	-1.68	2.64	—
FD-20	-1.51	2.61	1.4
FD-21	-1.46	2.63	1.0
FD-22	-1.75	2.69	0.8
FD-25	-1.38	2.63	—
FD-26	-1.66	2.72	—
FD-27	-1.32	2.17	1.5
FD-28	-1.34	2.01	2.0
FD-119	-1.39	2	0.9

In every instance the EL device containing the fluorescent dye as a dopant to the HM-1 layer exhibited a visually detectable shift in hue. The following dyes also produced improvements in efficiency: FD-4, FD-5, FD-15, FD-20, FD-27, and FD-28.

When fluorescent dyes were substituted exhibiting either a more negative reduction potential than host material HM-1 or a larger bandgap potential, no useful result attributable to the presence of the fluorescent dye was observed.

APPENDIX I

Preparation of Fluorescent Compound FD-114

n-Butyllithium (7 mmole in 3.5 ml of hexane) was slowly added to a well-stirred, cold (-70 °C) solution of diisopropylamine (1 ml, 7.2 mmole) in dry tetrahydrofuran under argon atmosphere. After stirring for five

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minutes, a solution of 1.5 g, 7.0 mmole of 6-methoxydihydrophenalenone in 20 ml of tetrahydrofuran was slowly added.

The resulting dark-colored solution was stirred at -70°C for 1.5 hours. The solution was then transferred using a syringe, to a round-bottomed flask containing 5 g (10 mmole) of (2-ethoxy-1,3-pentadienyl)-triphenylphosphonium iodide prepared according to the procedure described by Martin et al in J Org. Chem. 43, pp. 4673-4676 (1978). The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour and refluxed for 3 hours. All of the steps were carried out under argon and the exclusion of moisture.

The suspension was then cooled to room temperature, 50 ml of 1 normal hydrochloric acid added and stirred vigorously for 1 hour. Then 50 ml of ether were added and the layers separated. Three additional 10 ether extractions were combined with the first and the ether solution was washed in turn with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution, water, and saturated sodium chloride solution. The ether solution was dried and the solvent evaporated to yield about 3 g of solid residue. The residue was purified via flash chromatography on silica gel using a 10:45:45 ethyl acetate, dichloromethane, cyclohexane mixture as the eluent. The desired product was seen as an orange band when illuminated with a long wavelength (355 nm) 15 ultraviolet lamp. The bands containing the orange fluorescent dye were combined, the solvents evaporated yielding 860 mg (44% yield) of 4-methoxy-8-methyl-10-oxo-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrobenzo[d,e]-anthracene having a m.p. of 135-136°C and m/e of 278(M⁺). The calculated analysis for C₁₉H₁₈O was C, 82.0, H, 6.2 with the found of C, 81.7, H, 6.3.

A solution of 530 mg (1.9 mmole) of the compound identified above, in N,N-dimethylformamide (15 ml), 20 was slowly added to a solution of 700 mg (4.1 mmole) of cupric chloride hydrate and 200 mg (4.7 mmole) of lithium chloride in N,N-dimethylformamide (30 ml) heated to 90°C. The resulting mixture was stirred for 70 minutes. Ice was added to the mixture and the resulting brown solid was separated and washed several times with cold water, yielding 397 mg (80% yield) of Dye 1. This product was shown to be pure by thin 25 layer chromatography on silica gel, but was recrystallized from ethyl acetate-ethanol to give a material with a m.p. of 289-295°C, and m/e of 260(M⁺). The structure of the dye was confirmed by the analysis of its N-phenyl-N-methylcarbamate derivative. The calculated analysis for C₂₆H₁₉-NO₃ was C, 79.4, H, 4.9, N, 3.6 and found was C, 79.2, H, 5.1, N, 3.8.

Preparation of Fluorescent Dye FD-116

Cupric chloride dihydrate (2.45 g, 14.4 mmole) and lithium chloride (1.0 g, 22.7 mmole) were suspended in 20 ml of N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF) heated to 90°C. To this hot mixture was added a solution of 650 mg, (2.34 mmole) of the methoxy ketone intermediate of Example 1 dissolved in 10 ml of DMF. The mixture was kept at 90°C for 24 hours and then quenched by adding ice and water. The 35 resulting precipitate was washed several times with water and dried. It was purified by triturating with 10% methanol in 1:1 ethyl acetate/dichloromethane, yielding 300 mg (44%) of Dye 3. The product from the trituration step is pure enough for the intended applications. It can be further purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using 20% ethyl acetate in a 1:1 dichloromethane/cyclohexane mixture as eluent, yielding material with m.p. of 238-240°C. The structure of Dye 3 was confirmed by the elemental analysis 40 of both its methyl ether and its N-phenyl-N-methylcarbamate derivatives.

Analysis for methyl ether derivative C₁₉-H₁₃ClO₂: Calcd: C, 73.9, H, 4.2. Found: C, 74.0, H, 4.1.

Analysis for carbamate derivative C₂₆H₁₈-ClNO₃: Calcd: C, 73.0, H, 4.2, N, 3.3. Found: C, 72.8, H, 4.1, N, 3.1.

45 Preparation of Fluorescent Dye FD-118

N-phenyl-N-methylcarbamoyl chloride (1.2 equivalents) was added to a mixture of 1.2 equivalents each of pyridine and Dye 3 of Example 2 in toluene as solvent and the mixture heated to reflux for 12 hours. The toluene solution was cooled, washed with dilute hydrochloric acid, then water, and finally brine. The organic 50 phase was separated and the solvent evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using 20% ethyl acetate in 1:1 dichloromethane/cyclohexane as the eluent. Dye 5 has m.p. of 233-235°C and the elemental analysis given for the carbamate in Example 2.

Preparation of Fluorescent Dye FD-119

The methoxy ketone intermediate of Example 1 (400 mg, 1.4 mmole) dissolved in a small amount of dichloromethane was added to 5 ml, 59.8 mmole of pyrrolidine in 100 ml of anhydrous methanol and the mixture refluxed for four days with stirring. The mixture was cooled and the solvents evaporated under

reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using 1:1 dichloromethane/cyclohexane containing ethyl acetate ranging from 0% at the start to 50% at the end of the reaction. The appropriate fractions were combined and the solvents evaporated. The residue was triturated with ethyl acetate and filtered, giving Dye 6 in 44% yield, with m.p. of 244-246°C, m/e 313 of (M^+).

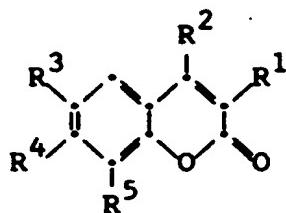
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Claims

1. An electroluminescent device comprising in sequence, an anode, an organic hole injecting and transporting zone, a luminescent zone, and a cathode,
characterized in that
said luminescent zone is formed by a thin film of less than 1 μm in thickness comprised of an organic host material capable of sustaining both hole and electron injection and a fluorescent material capable of emitting light in response to hole-electron recombination.
- 15 2. An electroluminescent device according to claim 1 further characterized in that said fluorescent material is chosen to provide favored sites for light emission.
3. An electroluminescent device according to claim 1 or 2 further characterized in that said fluorescent material is located in a layer containing said organic host material lying in contact with said organic hole injecting zone.
- 20 4. An electroluminescent device according to any one of claims 1 to 3 further characterized in that said cathode is comprised of a metal, other than an alkali metal, having a work function of less than 4 eV.
5. An electroluminescent device according to any one of claims 1 to 4 further characterized in that said organic hole injecting and transporting zone is comprised of
a layer in contact with said anode containing a hole injecting porphyrinic compound and
a layer containing a hole transporting aromatic tertiary amine interposed between said hole injecting layer and said luminescent zone.
- 30 6. An electroluminescent device according to any one of claims 1 to 5 further characterized in that said fluorescent material has a bandgap no greater than that of said host material and a reduction potential less negative than that of said host material.
7. An electroluminescent device according to any one of claims 1 to 6 further characterized in that said fluorescent material is a dye.
- 35 8. An electroluminescent device according to claim 7 further characterized in that said dye is chosen from the class consisting of coumarin, dicyanomethylene pyrans and thiopyrans, polymethine, oxobenzanthracene, xanthene, pyrylium and thiapyrylium, carbostyryl, and perylene fluorescent dyes.
- 40 9. An electroluminescent device according to claim 8 further characterized in that said fluorescent dye is a coumarin dye of the formula:

45

50



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where

R¹ is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, carboxy, alkanoyl, alkoxy carbonyl, cyano, aryl, and a heterocyclic aromatic group,

R² is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, carboxy, alkanoyl, and

alkoxycarbonyl,

R³ is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl,

R⁴ is an amino group, and

R⁵ is hydrogen, or

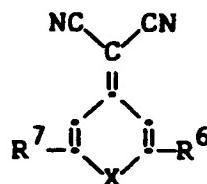
R¹ and R² together form a fused carbocyclic ring, or

the amino group forming R⁴ independently completes with at least one of R³ and R⁵ a fused ring.

- 5 10. An electroluminescent device according to claim 8 further characterized in that said fluorescent dye is a
dye of the formula:

10

15



20

where

X represents oxygen or sulfur;

R⁶ represents a 2-(4-aminostyryl) group; and

R⁷ represents a second R⁶ group, an alkyl group, or a phenyl group.

25

11. An electroluminescent device according to any one of claims 1 to 10 further characterized in that said host material is capable of emitting light of a first wavelength in the absence of said fluorescent material and said fluorescent material is capable of absorbing light at the first wavelength.

30

12. An electroluminescent device according to any one of claims 1 to 11 further characterized in that said cathode is comprised of a metal, other than an alkali metal, having a work function of less than 4 eV and is light transmissive.

35

13. An electroluminescent device according to claim 12 further characterized in that said cathode is formed of a combination of metals, other than alkali metals, having a work function of less than 4 eV.

14. An electroluminescent device according to claim 12 further characterized in that said cathode additionally includes less than 50 atomic percent of a second metal having a work function of greater than 4 eV.

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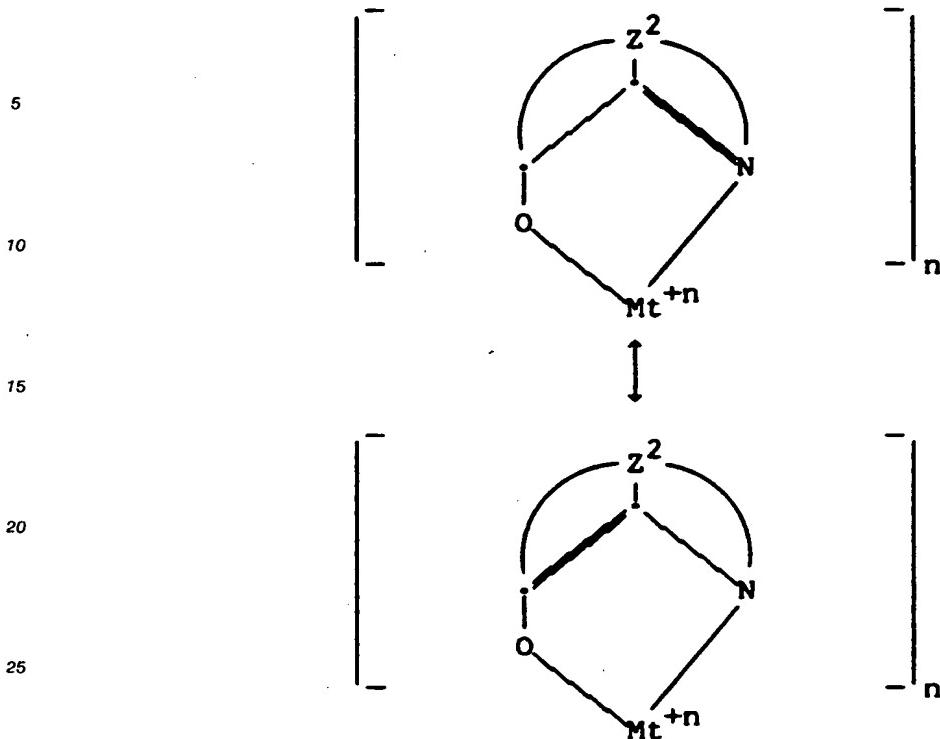
15. An electroluminescent device according to any one of claims 1 to 14 further characterized in that said host material is a chelated oxinoid compound.

16. An electroluminescent device according to claim 15 further characterized in that said chelated oxinoid compound is represented by the structure:

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wherein

Mt represents a metal;

n is an integer of from 1 to 3; and

Z^2 independently in each occurrence represents the atoms completing a nucleus having at least two fused aromatic rings.

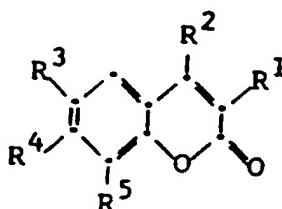
Revendications

1. Dispositif électroluminescent comprenant dans l'ordre une anode, une zone organique d'injection et de transport des trous, un zone luminescente et une cathode caractérisé en ce que la zone luminescente est formée par un film mince ayant une épaisseur inférieure à 1 μm comprenant un matériau-hôte organique permettant l'injection d'électrons et de trous et un matériau fluorescent capable d'émettre de la lumière en réponse à la recombinaison trou-électron.
2. Dispositif électroluminescent selon la revendication 1 dans lequel le matériau fluorescent est choisi pour fournir des sites préférentiels d'émission de lumière.
3. Dispositif électroluminescent selon la revendication 1 ou 2 dans lequel le matériau fluorescent est situé dans une couche contenant le matériau-hôte organique en contact avec la zone organique d'injection de trous.
4. Dispositif électroluminescent selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3 dans lequel la cathode est constituée d'un métal autre que les métaux alcalins, ayant un travail d'extraction inférieur à 4 eV.
5. Dispositif électroluminescent selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4 dans lequel la zone organique d'injection et de transport de trous est constituée d'une couche en contact avec l'anode contenant un composé porphyrinique pour l'injection de trous et une couche contenant une amine tertiaire aromatique pour le transport des trous, située entre la couche d'injection de trous et la zone luminescente.

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6. Dispositif électroluminescent selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5 dans lequel le matériau fluorescent a une bande interdite inférieure ou égale à celle du matériau-hôte et un potentiel de réduction moins négatif que celui du matériau-hôte.
- 5 7. Dispositif électroluminescent selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 6 dans lequel le matériau fluorescent est un colorant.
8. Dispositif électroluminescent selon la revendication 7 dans lequel le colorant est choisi parmi la classe des colorants fluorescents tels que la coumarine, les dicyanométhylénopyranne et les thiopyranne, les polyméthines, l'oxabenzanthracène, le xanthène, les pyrylium et les thiapyrylium, les carbostyryle et les pérylène.
- 10 9. Dispositif électroluminescent selon la revendication 8 dans lequel le colorant fluorescent est un colorant coumarine de formule :

15



20

25 où

R¹ est choisi parmi un atome d'hydrogène, un groupe carboxy, alkanoyl, alkoxy carbonyle, cyano, aryle, et un radical hétérocyclique aromatique,

R² est choisi parmi un atome d'hydrogène, un groupe alkyle, haloalkyle, carboxy, alkanoyl et alkoxy carbonyle,

30 R³ est choisi parmi un atome d'hydrogène ou un groupe alkyle,

R⁴ est un groupe amino, et

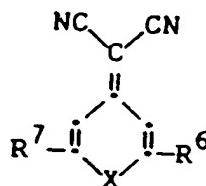
R⁵ est un atome d'hydrogène, ou

R¹ et R² forment ensemble un noyau carbocyclique condensé, ou

35 le groupe amino représenté par R⁴ forme indépendamment avec au moins un des groupes R³ et R⁵ un cycle condensé.

10. Dispositif électroluminescent selon la revendication 8 dans lequel le colorant fluorescent est un colorant de formule :

40



45

où

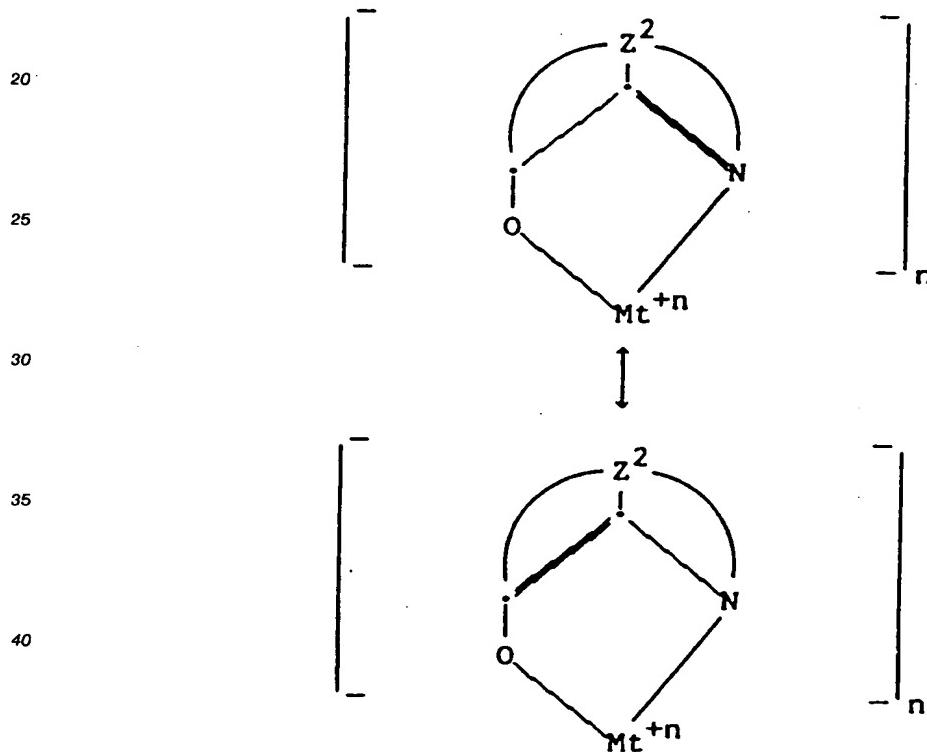
50 X représente un atome de soufre ou d'oxygène,

R⁶ représente un groupe 2-(4-aminostyryl), et

R⁷ représente un second groupe R⁶, un groupe alkyle ou phényle.

- 55 11. Dispositif électroluminescent selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 10 dans lequel le matériau-hôte est capable d'émettre de la lumière d'une première longueur d'onde en l'absence du matériau fluorescent et le matériau fluorescent est capable d'absorber la lumière de la première longueur d'onde.

12. Dispositif électroluminescent selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 11 dans lequel la cathode est constituée d'un métal autre que les métaux alcalins, ayant un travail d'extraction inférieur à 4 eV et transmet la lumière.
- 5 13. Dispositif électroluminescent selon la revendication 12 dans lequel la cathode est constituée d'une combinaison de métaux autres que les métaux alcalins ayant un travail d'extraction inférieur à 4 eV.
- 10 14. Dispositif électroluminescent selon la revendication 12 dans lequel la cathode comprend en plus, moins de 50 % en atome d'un second métal ayant un travail d'extraction supérieur à 4 eV.
- 15 15. Dispositif électroluminescent selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 14 dans lequel le matériau hôte est un composé oxynoïde chélaté.
16. Dispositif électroluminescent selon la revendication 15 dans lequel le composé oxynoïde chélaté est représenté par la structure :



45 où

 Mt représente un métal,

 n est un nombre entier compris entre 1 et 3, et

 Z² représente, indépendamment dans chaque cas, les atomes nécessaires pour former un noyau ayant au moins deux cycles aromatiques condensés.

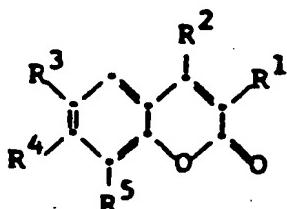
Patentansprüche

1. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung mit in Folge einer Anode, einer organischen Leerstellen injizierenden und transportierenden Zone, einer lumineszierenden Zone und einer Kathode,
55 dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß
 die lumineszierende Zone von einem dünnen Film einer Stärke von weniger als 1 µm aus einem organischen Wirtsmaterial, das sowohl eine Leerstellen- wie auch eine Elektronen-Injektion zu unter-

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stützen vermag und aus einem fluoreszierenden Material, das Licht als Folge der Leerstellen-Elektronen-Rekombination zu emittieren vermag, gebildet wird.

- 5 2. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, weiter dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das fluoreszierende Material ausgewählt wird, daß es bevorzugte Zentren für die Lichemission liefert.
- 10 3. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß sich das fluoreszierende Material in einer Schicht befindet, die das organische Wirtsmaterial enthält und sich in Kontakt mit der organischen Leerstellen injizierenden Zone befindet.
- 15 4. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, weiter dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Kathode aus einem von einem Alkalimetall verschiedenen Metall aufgebaut ist, mit einer Austrittsarbeit von weniger als 4 eV.
- 20 5. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, weiter dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die organische Leerstellen injizierende und transportierende Zone umfaßt eine Schicht in Kontakt mit der Anode, enthaltend eine Leerstellen injizierende porphyrinische Verbindung und eine Schicht, enthaltend ein Leerstellen transportierendes aromatisches tertäres Amin zwischen der Leerstellen injizierenden Schicht und der lumineszierenden Zone.
- 25 6. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5, weiter dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das fluoreszierende Material einen Bandspalt, der nicht größer ist als der des Wirtsmaterials und ein Reduktionspotential, das weniger negativ ist als das des Wirtsmaterials, aufweist.
- 30 7. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 6, weiter dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das fluoreszierende Material ein Farbstoff ist.
- 35 8. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 7, weiterhin dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Farbstoff ausgewählt ist aus der blasse bestehend aus Coumarin-, Dicyanomethylenpyran-, und -thiopyran-, Polymethin-, Oxabenzanthracen-, Xanthen-, Pyrylium- und Thiapyrylium-, Carbostyryl und Perylen-Fluoreszenzfarbstoffen.
- 40 9. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 8, weiter dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Fluoreszenzfarbstoff ein Coumarinfarbstoff der Formel:



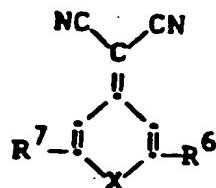
ist, worin

- 50 R¹ ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe bestehend aus Wasserstoff, Carboxy, Alkanoyl, Alkoxy carbonyl, Cyano, Aryl, und einer heterocyclischen aromatischen Gruppe;
- 55 R² ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe bestehend aus Wasserstoff, Alkyl, Haloalkyl, Carboxy, Alkanoyl, und Alkoxy carbonyl,
- R³ ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe bestehend aus Wasserstoff und Alkyl;
- R⁴ eine Aminogruppe ist; und
- R⁵ Wasserstoff oder
- 55 R¹ und R² gemeinsam einen ankondensierten carbocyclischen Ring bilden, oder die Aminogruppe, für die R⁴ steht, mit mindestens einem der Reste R³ und R⁵ einen ankondensierten Ring bildet.

10. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 8, weiter dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der fluoreszierende Farbstoff ein Farbstoff der Formel:

5

10



ist, worin

- 15 X für Sauerstoff oder Schwefel steht;
 R⁶ eine 2-(4-Aminostyryl)gruppe darstellt und
 R⁷ eine zweite R⁶ Gruppe ist, eine Alkylgruppe oder eine Phenylgruppe.

20 11. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 10, weiter dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Wirtsmaterial in der Lage ist, in Abwesenheit des fluoreszierenden Materials Licht einer ersten Wellenlänge zu emittieren und daß das fluoreszierende Material in der Lage ist, Licht bei der ersten Wellenlänge zu absorbieren.

25 12. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 11, weiter dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Kathode aus einem von einem Alkalimetall verschiedenen Metall mit einer Austrittsarbeit von weniger als 4 eV aufgebaut ist und für Licht durchlässig ist.

30 13. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 12, weiter dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Kathode aus einer Kombination von Metallen, die von Alkalimetallen verschieden sind, mit einer Austrittsarbeit von weniger als 4 eV gebildet wird.

35 14. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 12, weiter dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Kathode zusätzlich weniger als 50 Atomprozent eines zweiten Metalles mit einer Austrittsarbeit von größer als 4 eV aufweist.

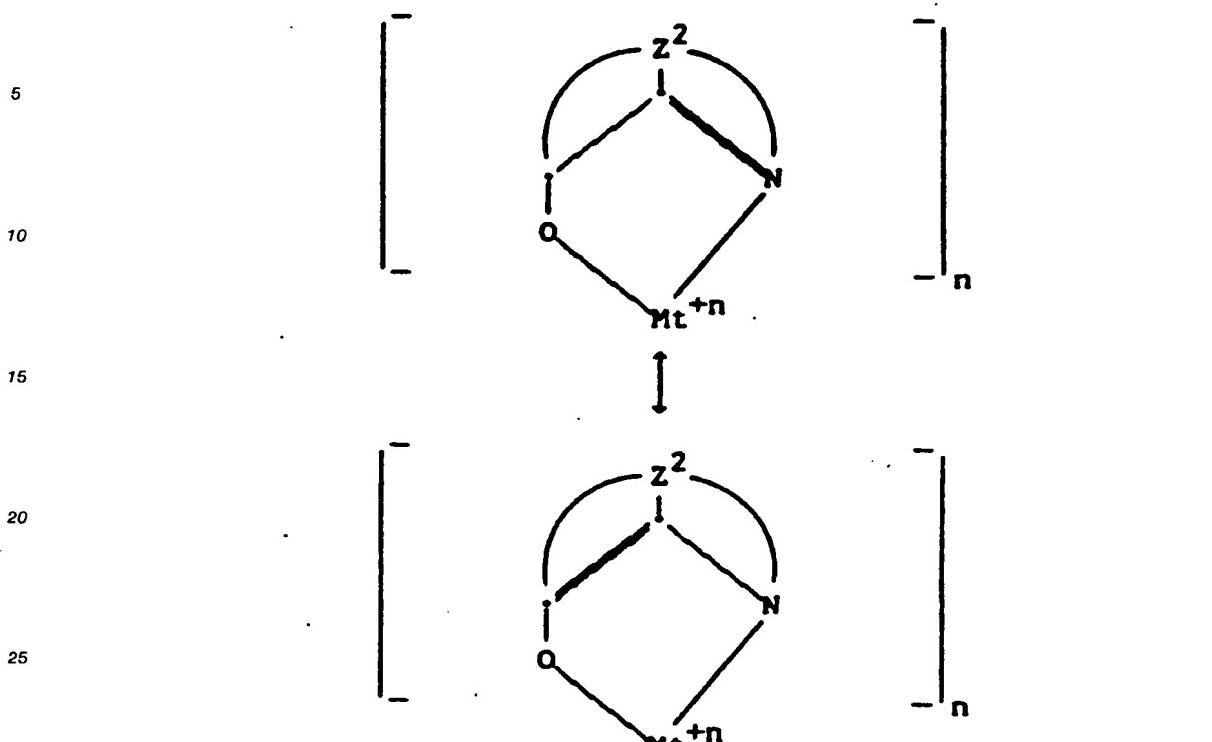
15. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 14, weiter dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Wirtsmaterial eine oxinoide Chelatverbindung ist.

40 16. Elektrolumineszierende Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 15, weiter dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die oxinoide Chelatverbindung der folgenden Struktur entspricht:

45

50

55



worin

Mt

ein Metall darstellt;

n

eine ganze Zahl von 1 bis 3 ist; und

35

Z

unabhängig von jedem Vorkommen für die Atome steht, die einen Kern vervollständigen, der mindestens zwei ankondensierte aromatische Ringe aufweist.

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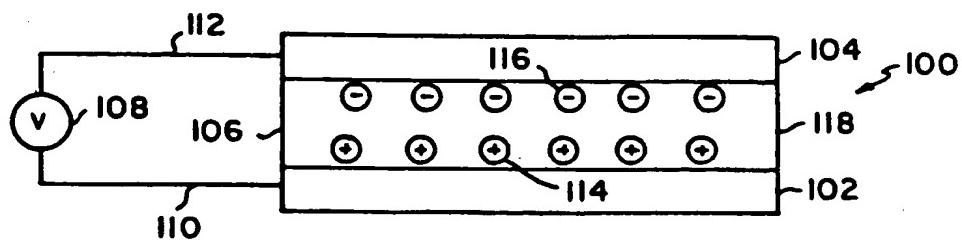


FIG. 1

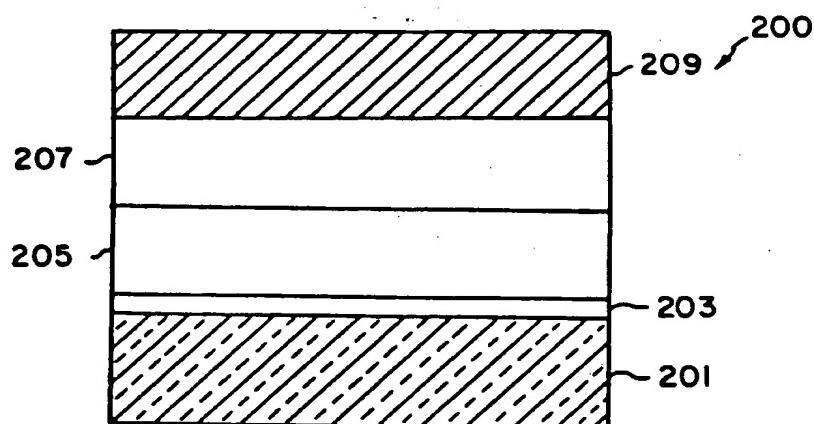


FIG. 2

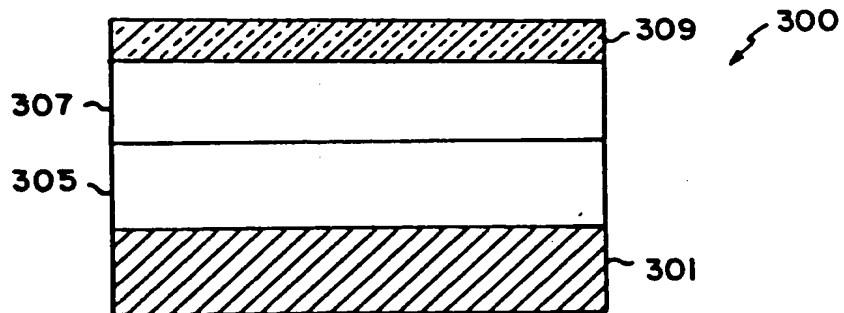


FIG. 3

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